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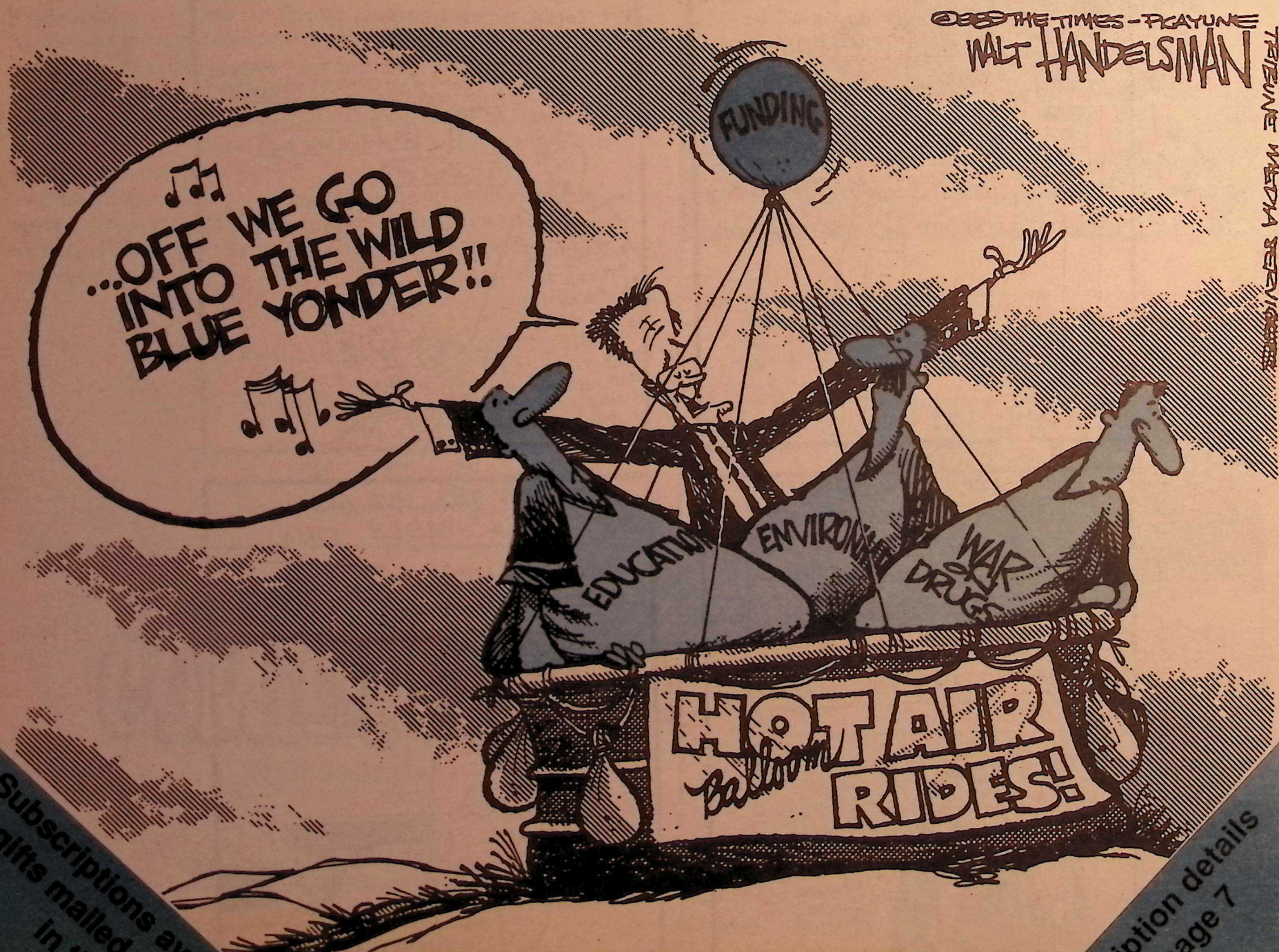

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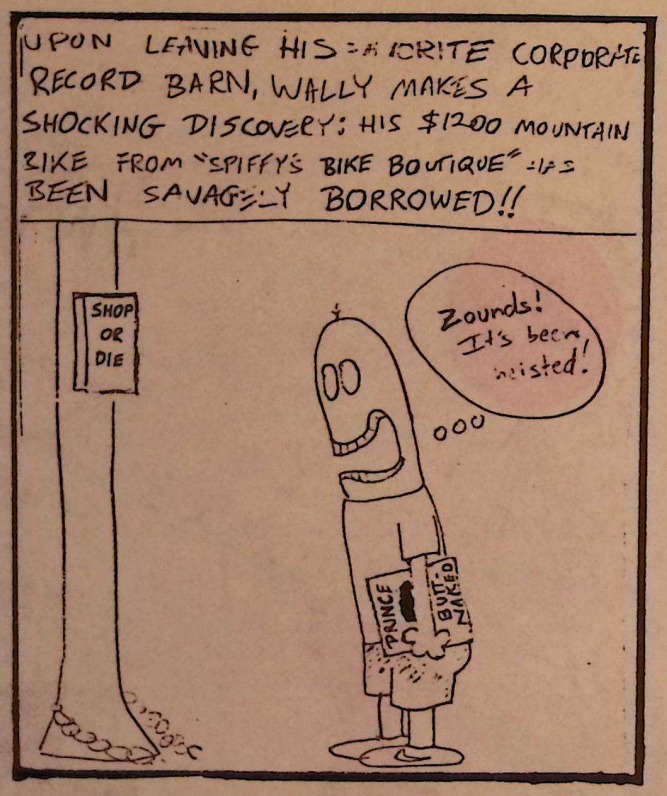
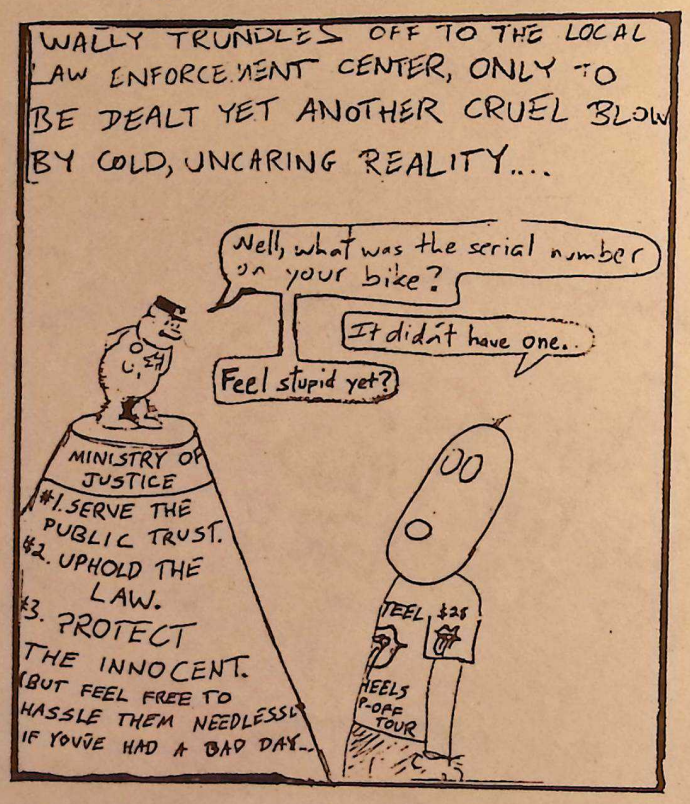
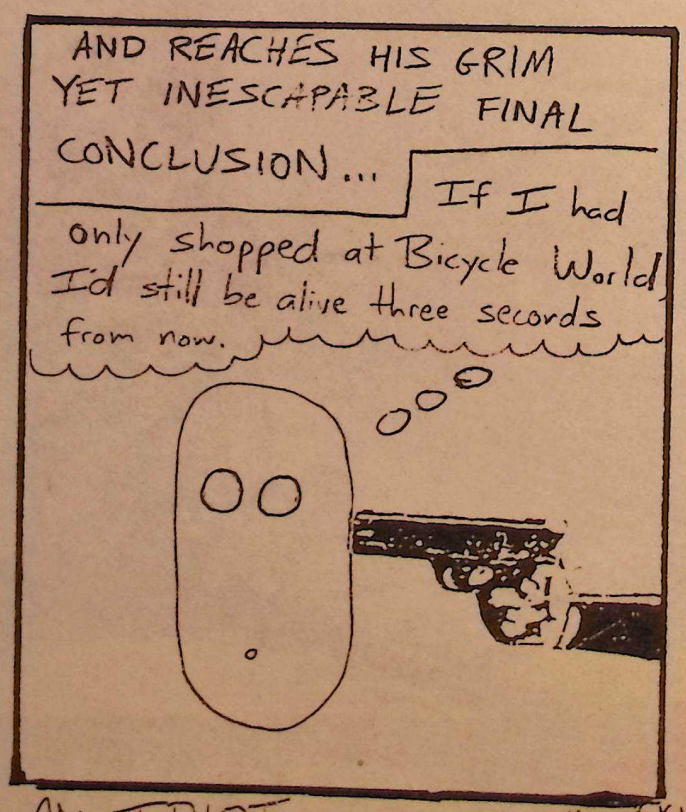
PRESENTS

Wally The Idiot
in
"Bicycle Blues"







DON'T BE AN IDIOT.

BLAM!

EDITOR'S NOTES

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Recently I happened across a rally at the student union on the campus of UMass. It was a rally protesting research and development on campus by and for defense contractors.

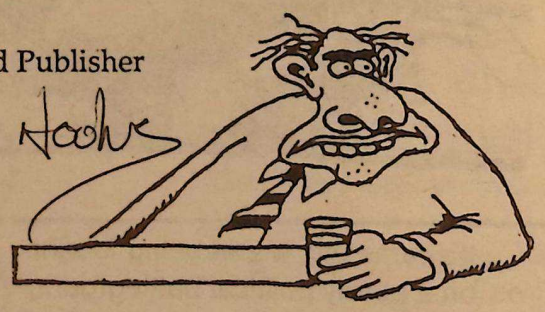
I applaud the noble efforts made by the protestors. Our military complex is, as a nation, our largest industry. With this in mind protesting against it can appear to be fruitless. But it is not.

Although the Congress and our president continue to spend money at an astronomical rate on the military, they are not unaffected by our demonstrations.

Like a splinter in the palm of your hand, depending on how you move your hand, it hurts. We just have to keep pushing that splinter deeper and hope it becomes infected in the hearts and minds of our representatives.

Editor and Publisher

David Hooks



THE AMHERST COMIC NEWS

(413) 586-2274

Editor and Publisher • David Hooks
Teacher, trouble shooter and all around Guru • Thom Zajak
Graphically competent local logistical genius • W. Keith Setterlund
Team ACN mascot • Kyle Paws Kelly
Youngins • Ali, Claire and Owen

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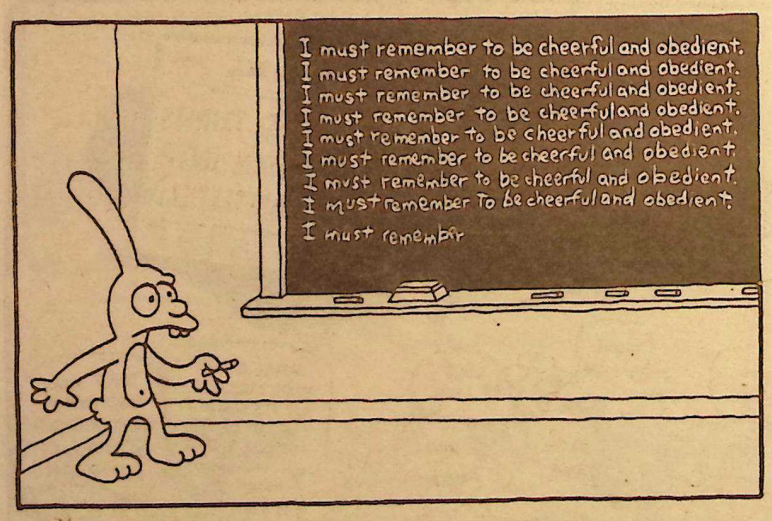

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DRUGSTORY

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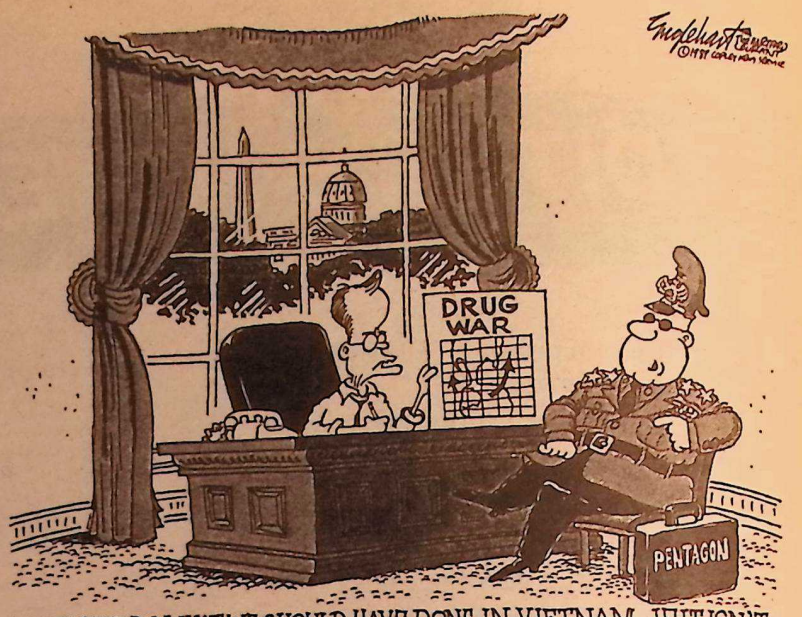
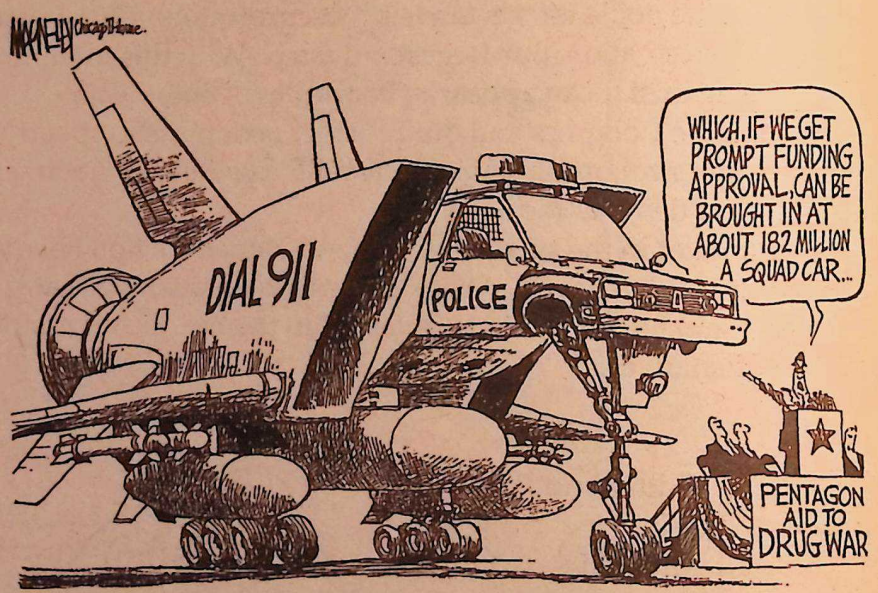


"I SAY WE DO WHAT WE SHOULD HAVE DONE IN VIETNAM. IF IT ISN'T OVER BY CHRISTMAS, DECLARE OURSELVES THE WINNER AND PULL OUT."

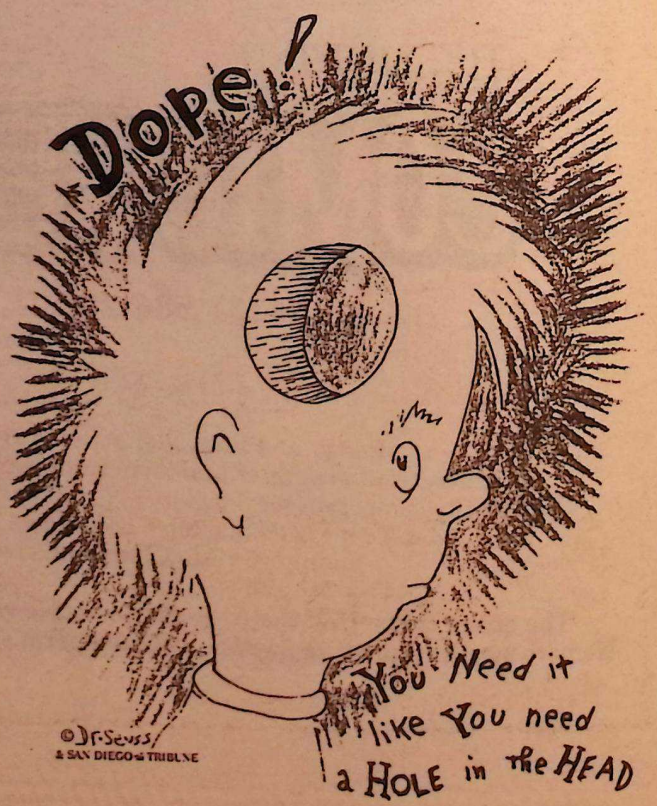
And every solution has problems.

The solutions closer to home benefit our military complex.



It seems this war is being fought on a purely political battleground.

Rather than on the street.



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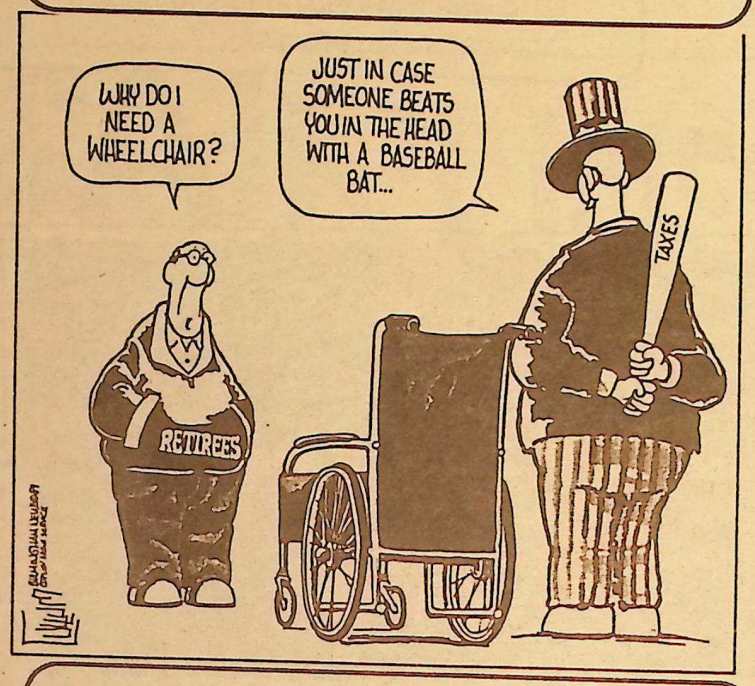
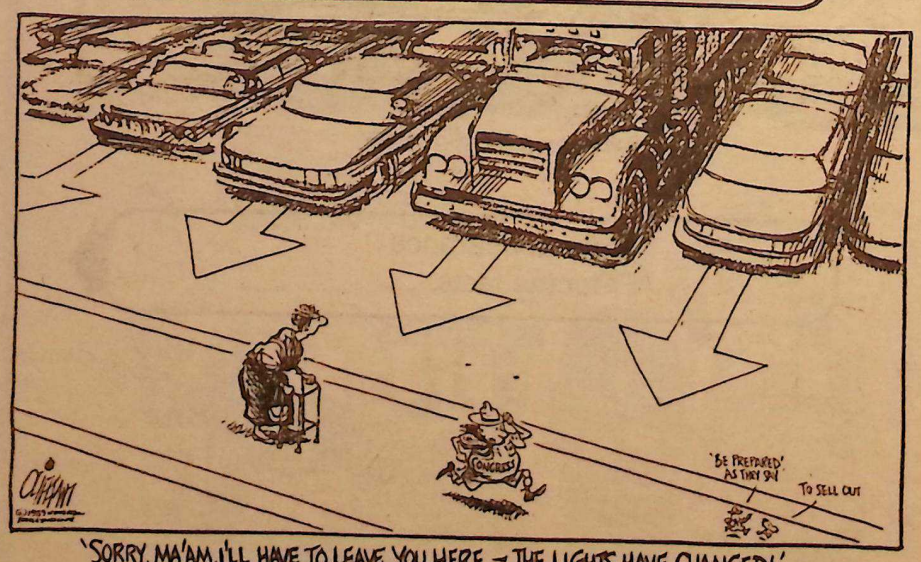
OLD NEWS

Gracefully aging in the eighties.



With the support of our overly generous health care systems.

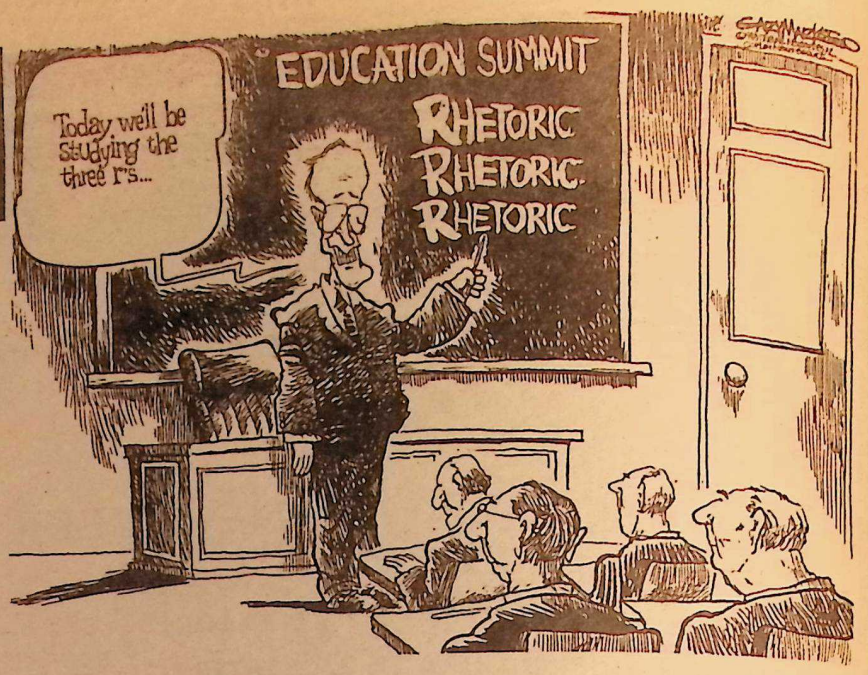
And our sympathetic government.

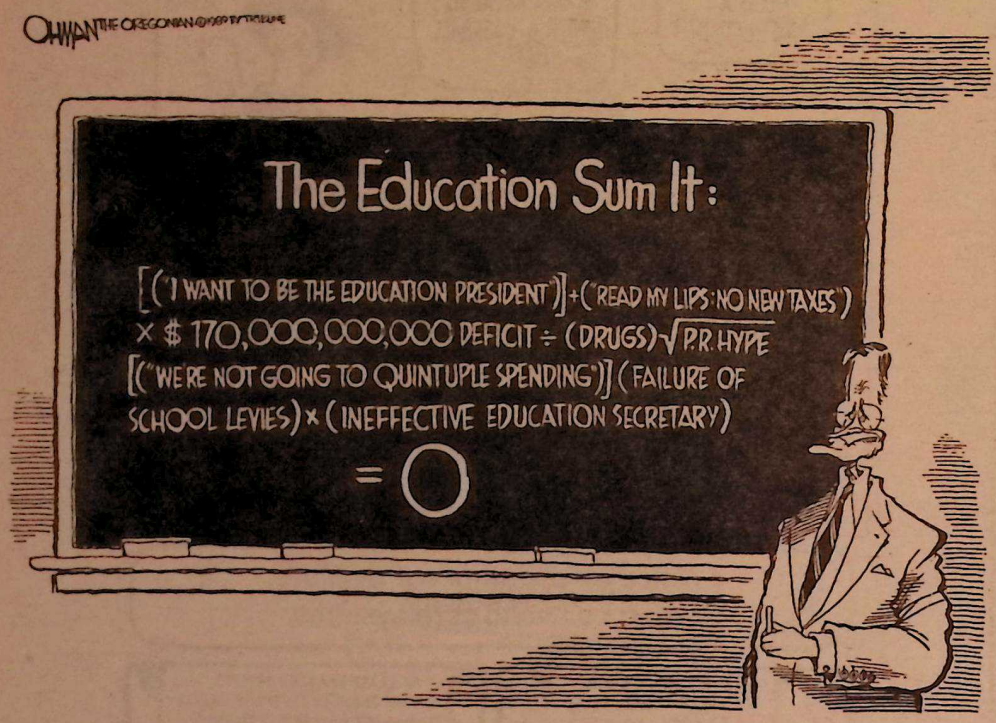


'SORRY, MA'AM, I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE YOU HERE – THE LIGHTS HAVE CHANGED!'

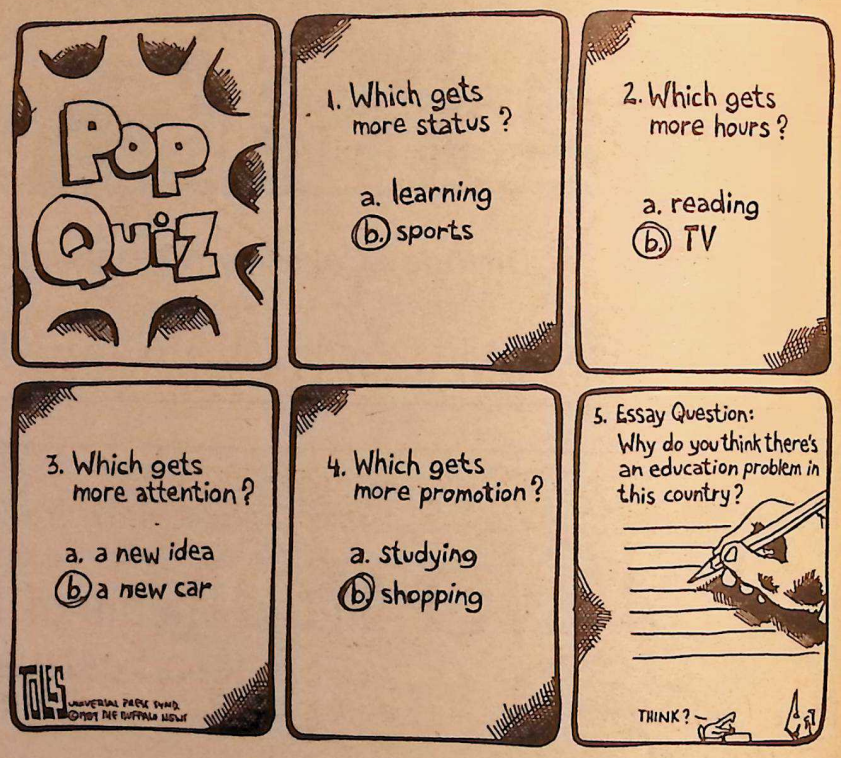
EDUCATION

He wants the Governors to uphold his campaign promise.





the equation is tough.

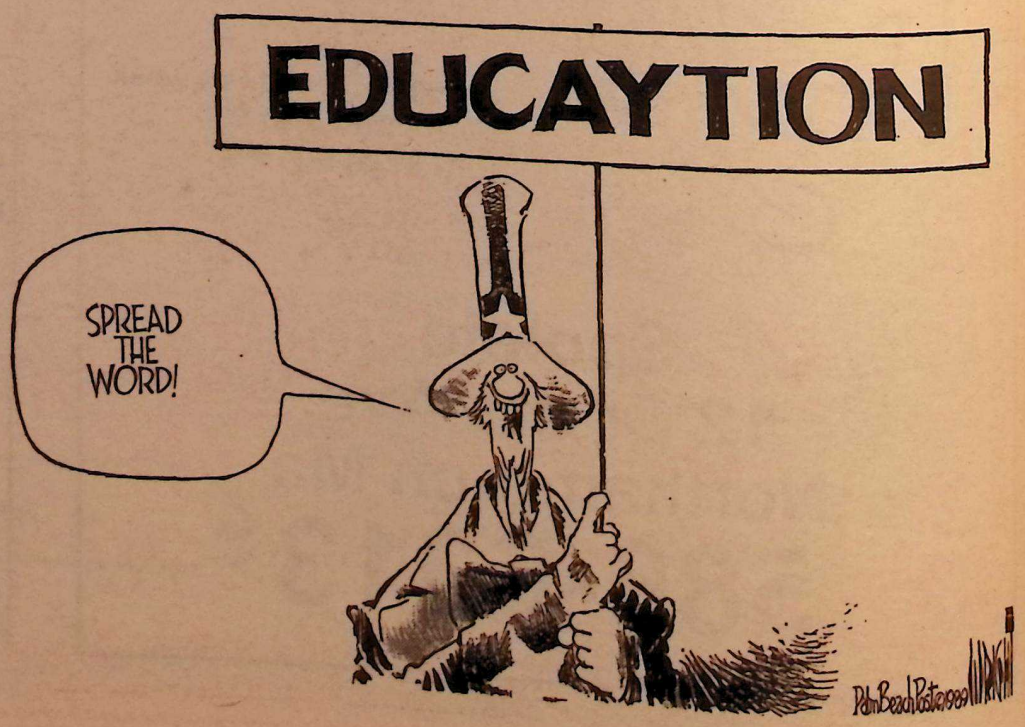


The questions are simple.

But the answers are not.

Spinning gold into straw...

"A" for appearance
"F" for the facts.



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(CHRISTMAS!!)

Is it to soon to say that word?.....Nah!

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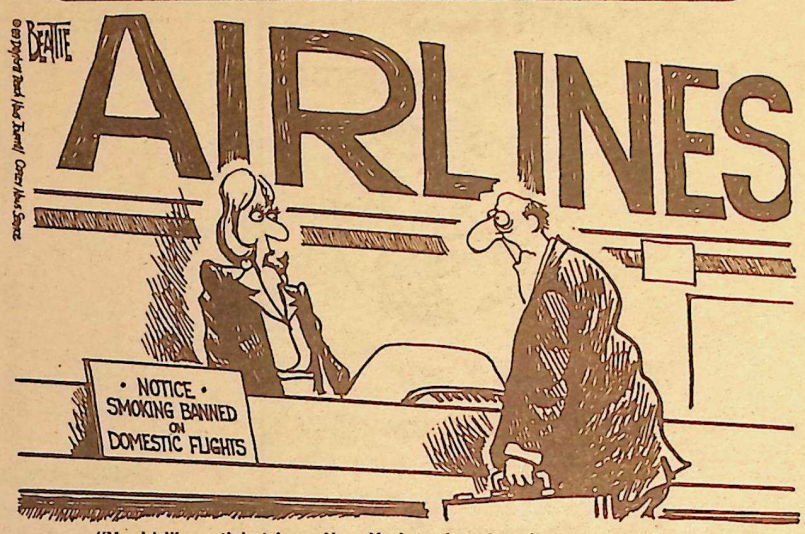
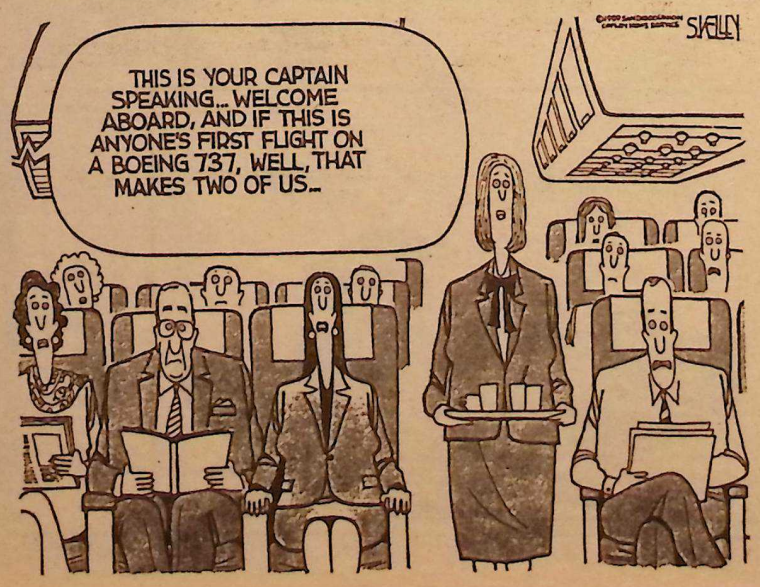


"You'd like a ticket from New York to Los Angeles.... around the world so you can smoke?!"

It's o.k. with big business.

But drinking might help more.



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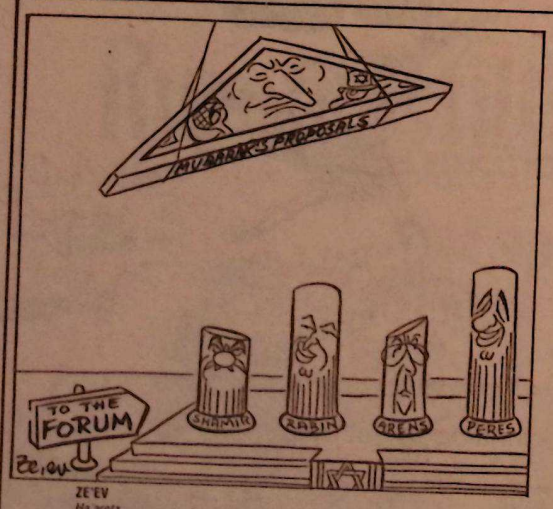

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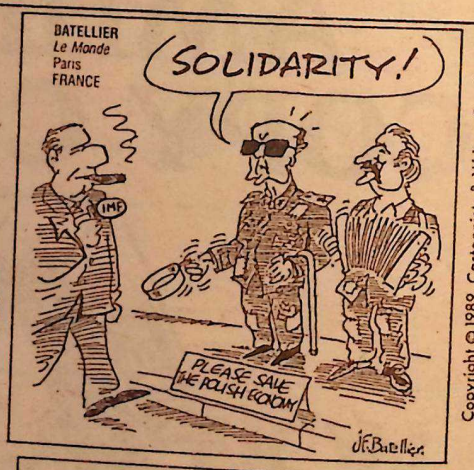

BATELLIER
Le Monde
Paris
FRANCE

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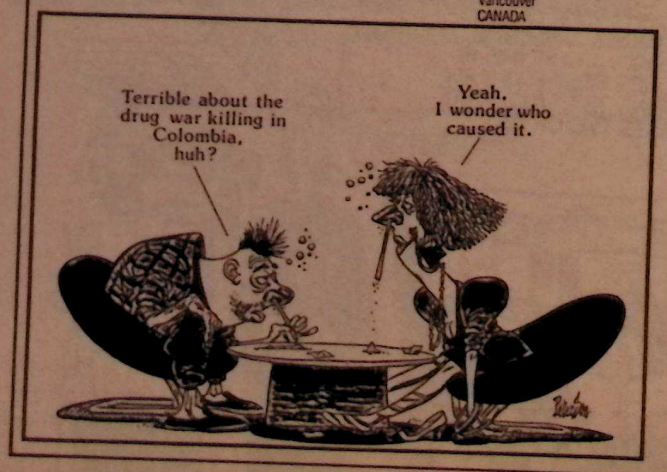

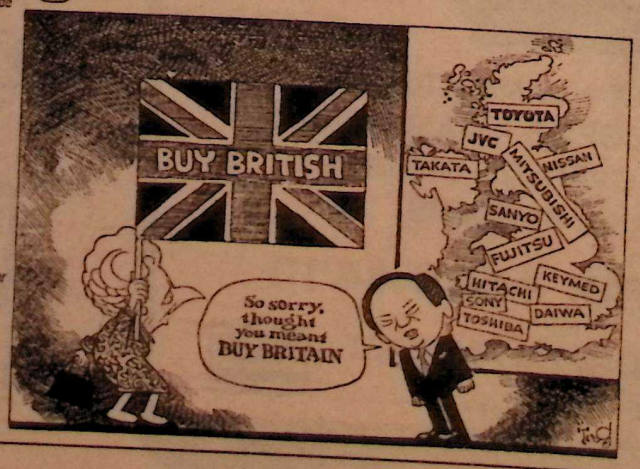

TROG
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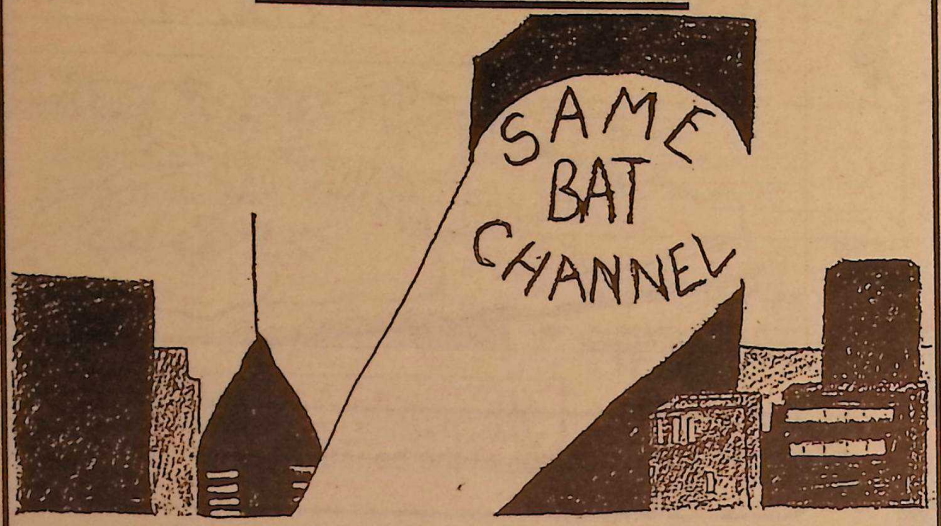
Same Bat Channel
AUCTION



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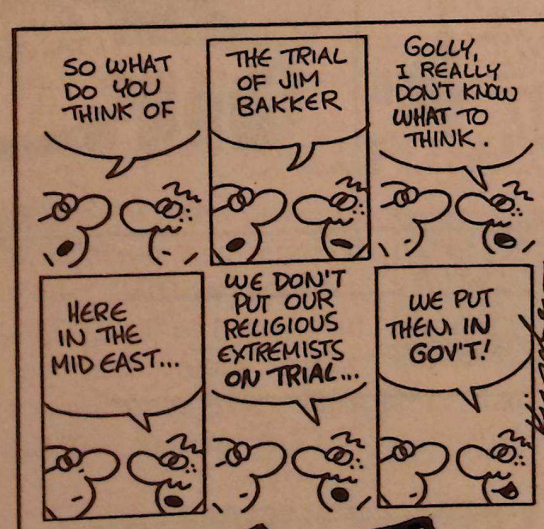

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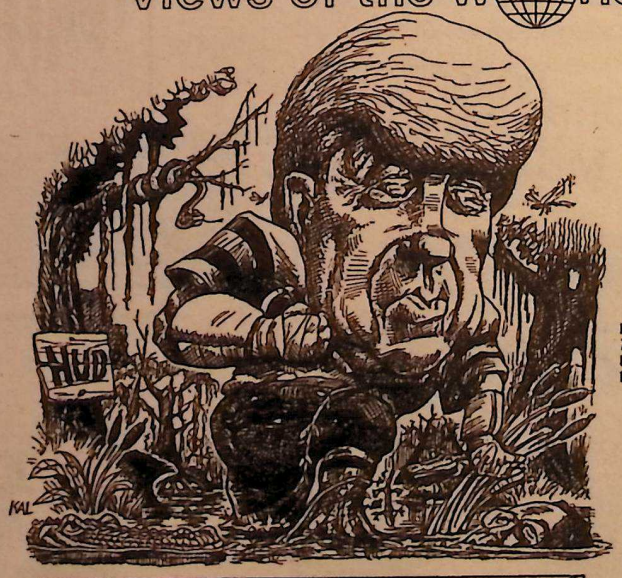
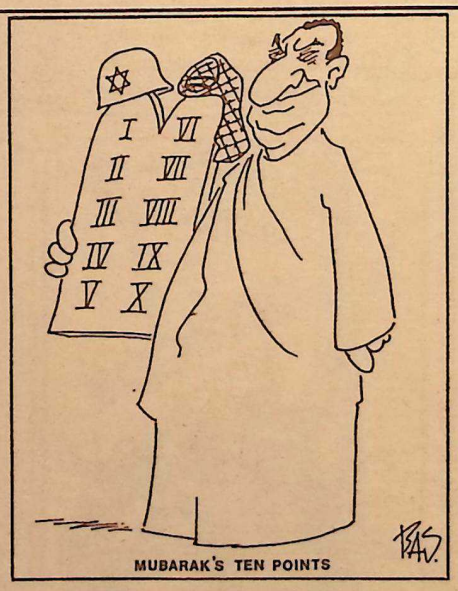


KAL
The Economist
London
ENGLAND



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Athens
GREECE

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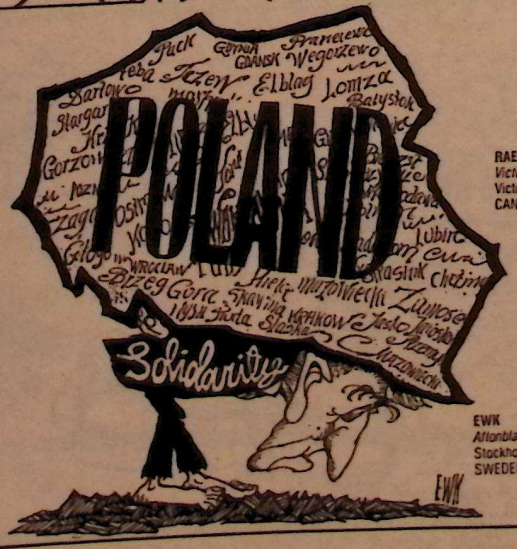

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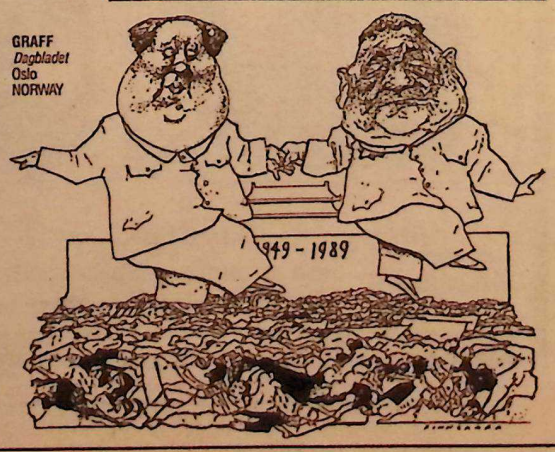

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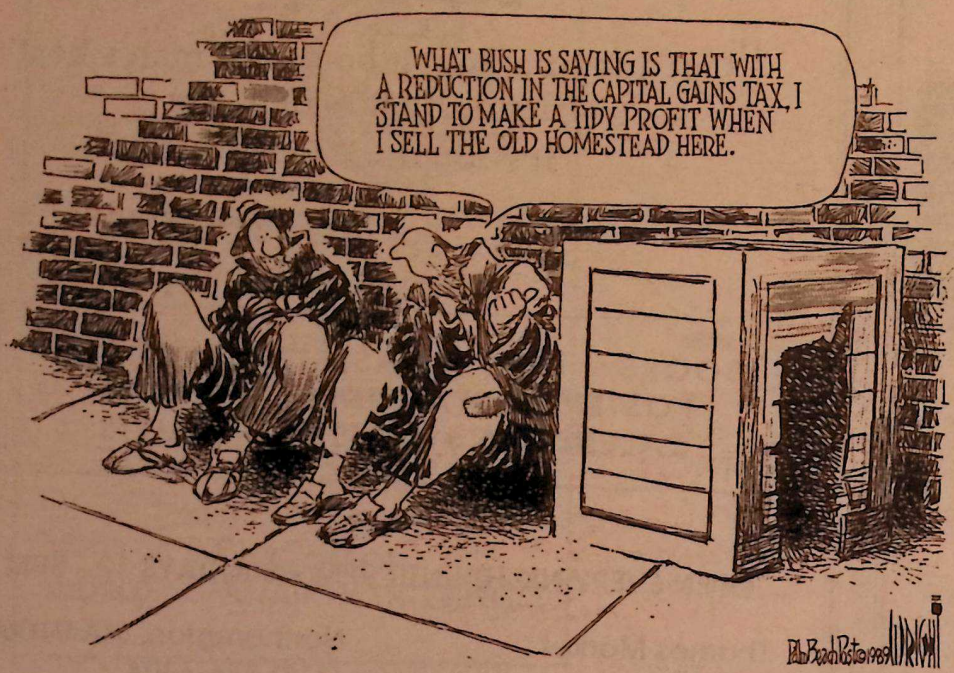
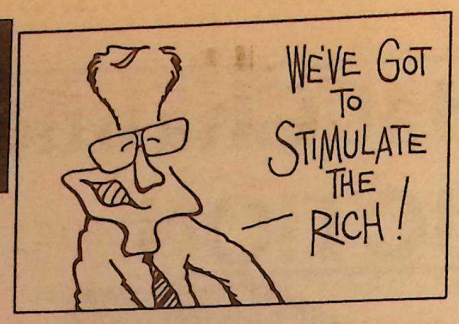
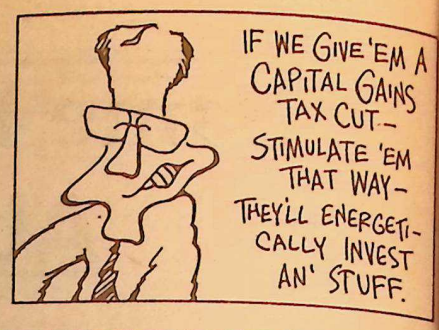
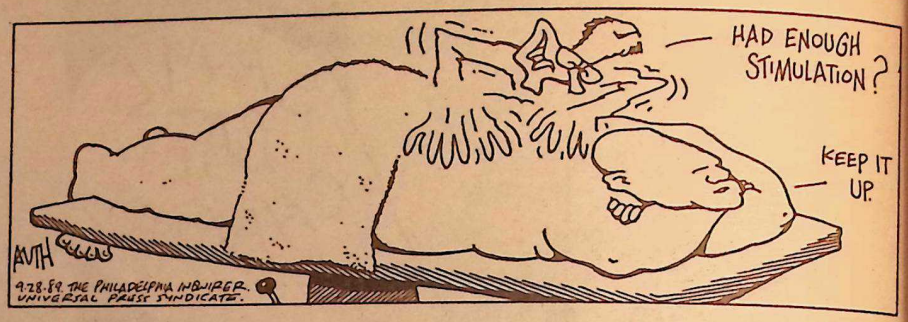
PLAYING GAINS

Capital idea!

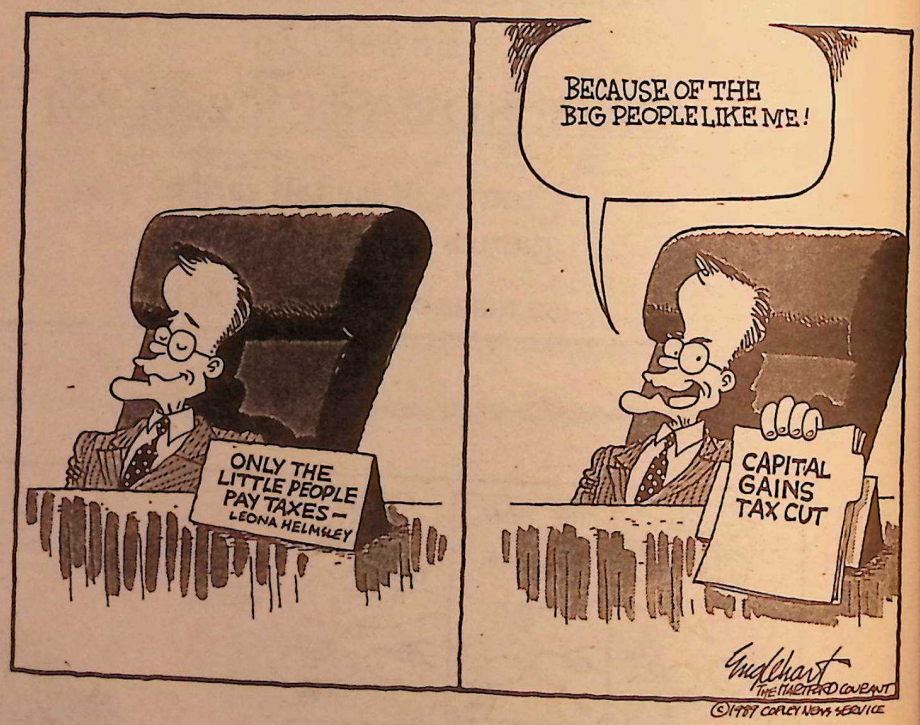




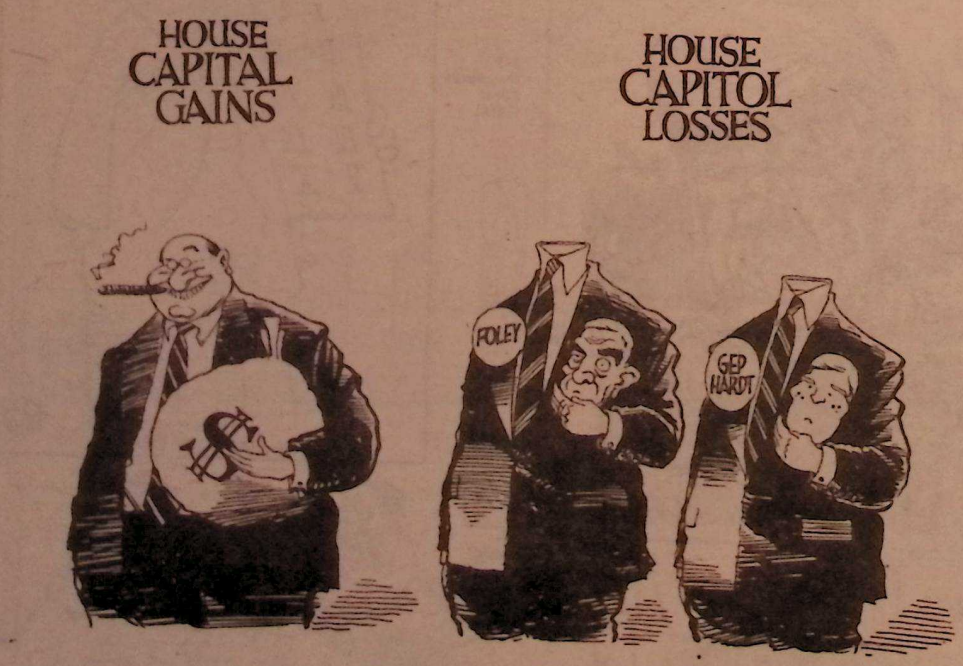




And look at the benefits

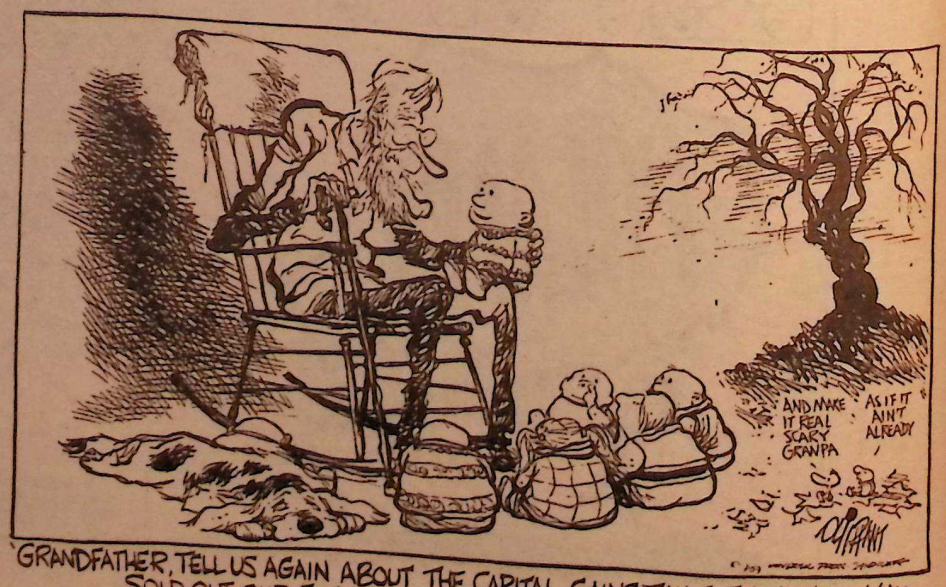


I mean if it works for her...



...and them...

Why not us?



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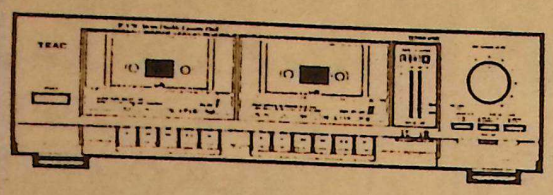
adirondack music



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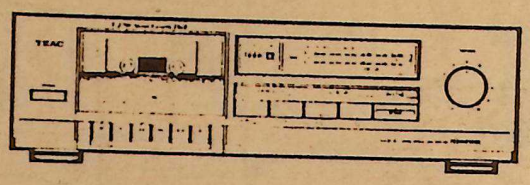

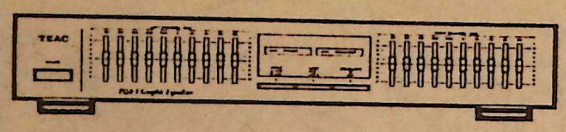

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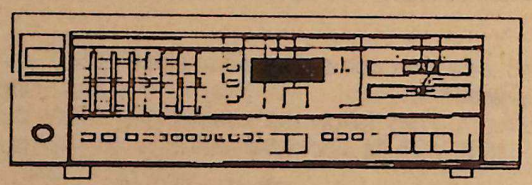

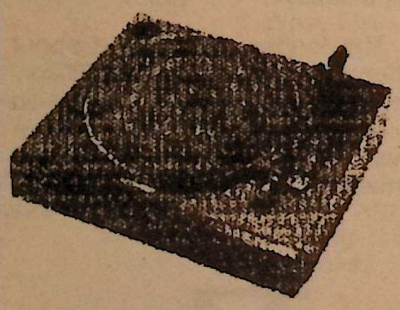

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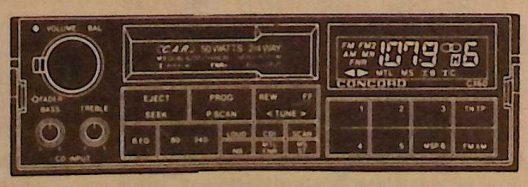
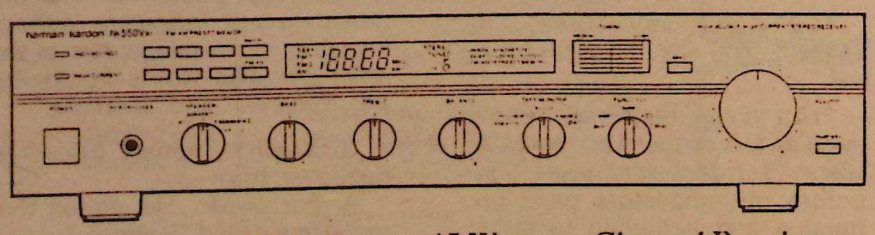


HARMON KARDON hk550Vxi



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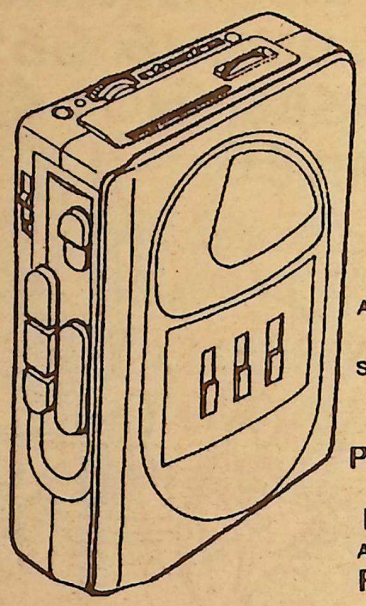

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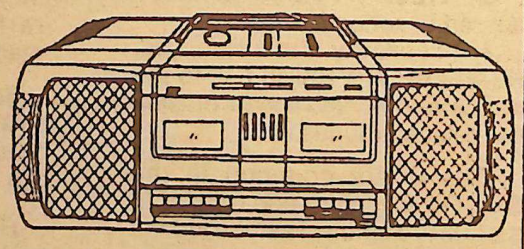

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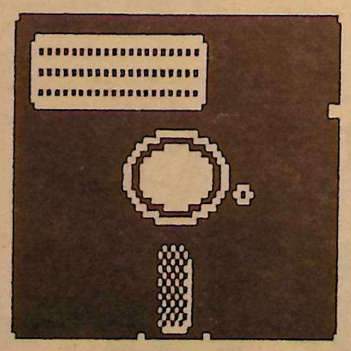

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CARB-TOONS

A science writer named Jared Diamond in "Discover" magazine contends group blood tests now show an estimated 10 to 30 percent of British and American babies are illegitimate. And usually, he says, the real fathers are next-door neighbors.

Q. Wasn't Prince Charles bussed to school?

A. Not exactly. But driven, yes. He was the first British heir to the throne who went to school outside the palace grounds.

Was pretty common in the South of a century ago to refer to the family outhouse as "the federal building." But that one died out.

Seventeen of the cities conquered by Alexander the Great were renamed after Alexander the Great.

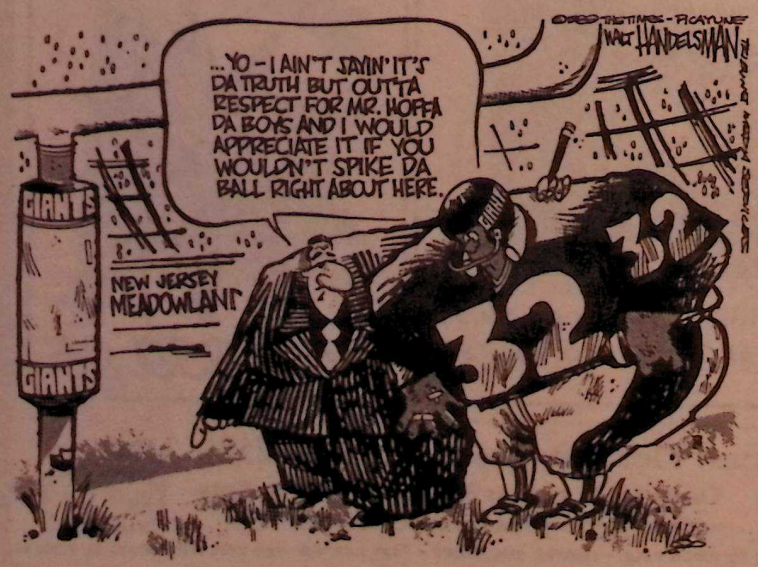
Consider the nose of an outdoor dog in the winter. More warm blood is pumped thereto than to any other part of said dog's body. Noses of healthy dogs don't get frost-bitten, I'm told.

Students at Boston College are issued magnetic cards with which they can check their grades in rerigged automatic teller machines. Pretty nifty.

Scent of perfume rises. So the best place to apply it is on the soles of your feet. That's the contention of a cosmetics expert.

History records the Vikings introduced cow's milk to the North American Indians. They liked it so much they traded furs for drinks of it.

Gorillas rarely drink water.



Q. How come clocks run clockwise?

A. They follow the sundial pattern. With its clockwise shadow.

All I know about the Dutch belt cow is it gives naturally homogenized milk.

An Iowa farmer butchered a cow in 1977 and sent one of its stomachs to the Treasury Department in Washington, D.C. In the contents an examiner found a mangled wallet and he pieced together $473 in currency. The farmer said, "I knew it! I knew it!"

"Mothers who return to the work force after time off to raise children often are quickly promoted into managerial roles. Why? Because without realizing it, they have been enrolled in one of the best, most demanding, management training programs in the world." So avers expert Eleanor Berman.

Most of the households in China still serve the men first.

A curious little law in Saco, Mo., makes it illegal there to wear any sort of hat that might frighten a timid person.

You don't say "toes" in Spanish. You say "fingers of the feet."

"You noted fingernails grow twice as fast as toenails," writes a client. "Ten thousand years ago before our ancestors gave up hunting and gathering to farm, their fingernails wore down twice as quickly as their toenails. Man adapts."

Q. I know a standard transmission will give better gas mileage than an automatic, but how much better?

A. At least a mile per gallon, the experts say.

The longer a college dropout attended classes, the more likely said dropout will return to graduate. An old presumption, that. But it now has been confirmed by computer runs.

FUN

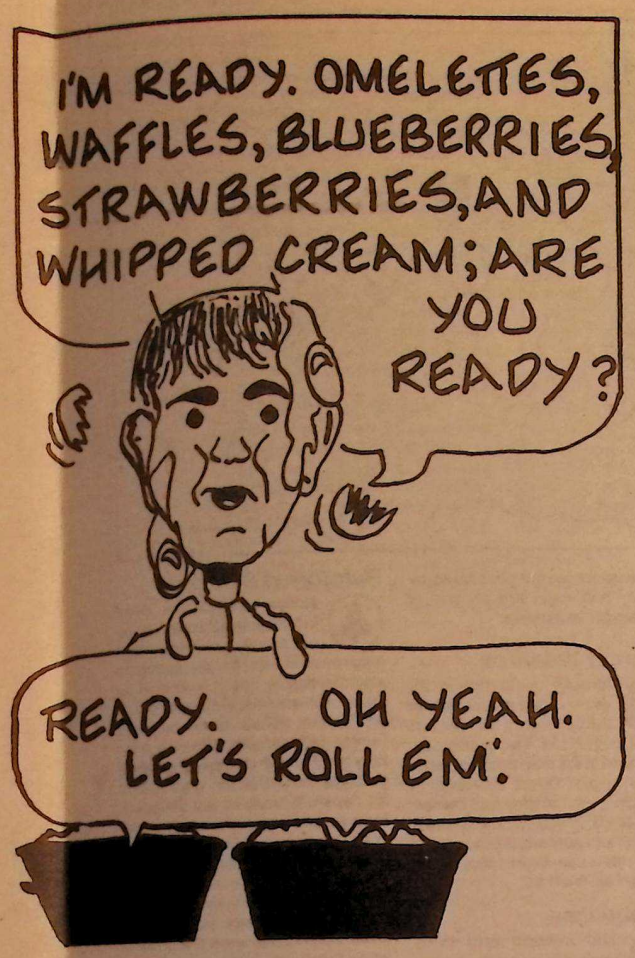
What men like to talk about least is clothes, and what women like to talk about least is sex. This, according to a most recent survey. Men want their casual conversations to deal with news and work, women prefer food and health. Both like to complain about television.

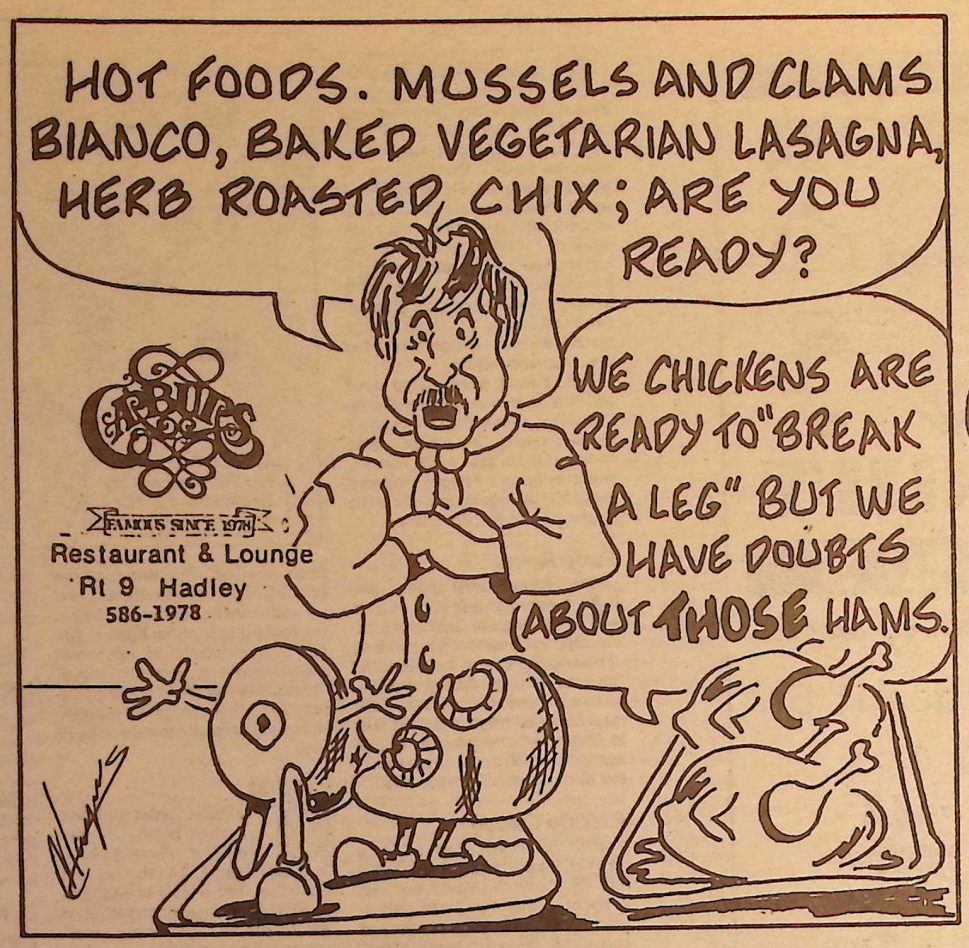
To foreign poets who hear the music in our language without knowing its meanings, two of the most beautiful words in English are "venereal" and "diarrhea."

Q. Wasn't Thomas Edison a publisher, too?

A. For awhile. He started that magazine called "Science."

You can figure about 41,000 babies will be born today in China.





CARBURPS

Writes an elder client: "Long ago, Herbert Hoover said, 'Do not neglect being just a boy. It only comes once.' Good advice. I took it, and unfortunately so did my sister. She used to beat the socks off me."

If you insist on personally verifying every little thing you read, you might want to research this: Bees have to collect nectar from two million flowers to make a pound of honey. Take your time. No hurry.

FACTS

It was Frank McKinney Hubbard who observed: "When a fellow says, 'It ain't the money but the principle of the thing,' it's the money."

Something else the birders haven't yet figured out is why one female robin in a season might make 10 or 15 nests side by side. Just confused maybe.

Marine researchers now report that dolphins, too, engage in that thing called recreational sex.

"Optimism leads to power," said the philosopher William James.

Spotted skunks are smellier than striped skunks.

Donald Duck has turned up in more movies than Mickey Mouse.

Would you like to own your own business? Fifty percent of the college students tell surveytakers that would be a great way to get ahead. But only 25 percent of those elders finished with college think likewise. What kicks the charm out of the ownership notion, evidently, is a post-graduate grasp of risk, responsibility and endless hard labor.

You lost most of your brain cells before you were born. Come on, nothing personal. It's said to be true of all mammals.

Q. What's a typical weekly food bill now for a family of four?
A. $116.

Curious statistic, this: Average American 40-year-old couple now has more living parents — 2.6 — than children — 2.2.

Fried bananas make good fish bait.

Am told at least 5 percent of the earth's surface is on fire every year. Hard to believe. It comes from the Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

Many a sidelined football player has jumped off the bench during a play to tackle an opposing team's ball carrier. But research suggests not one has ever been able to tell why. Standard explanation: "Something just took over."

Q. Before atom bombs, what did we use uranium for?
A. Coloring glass.

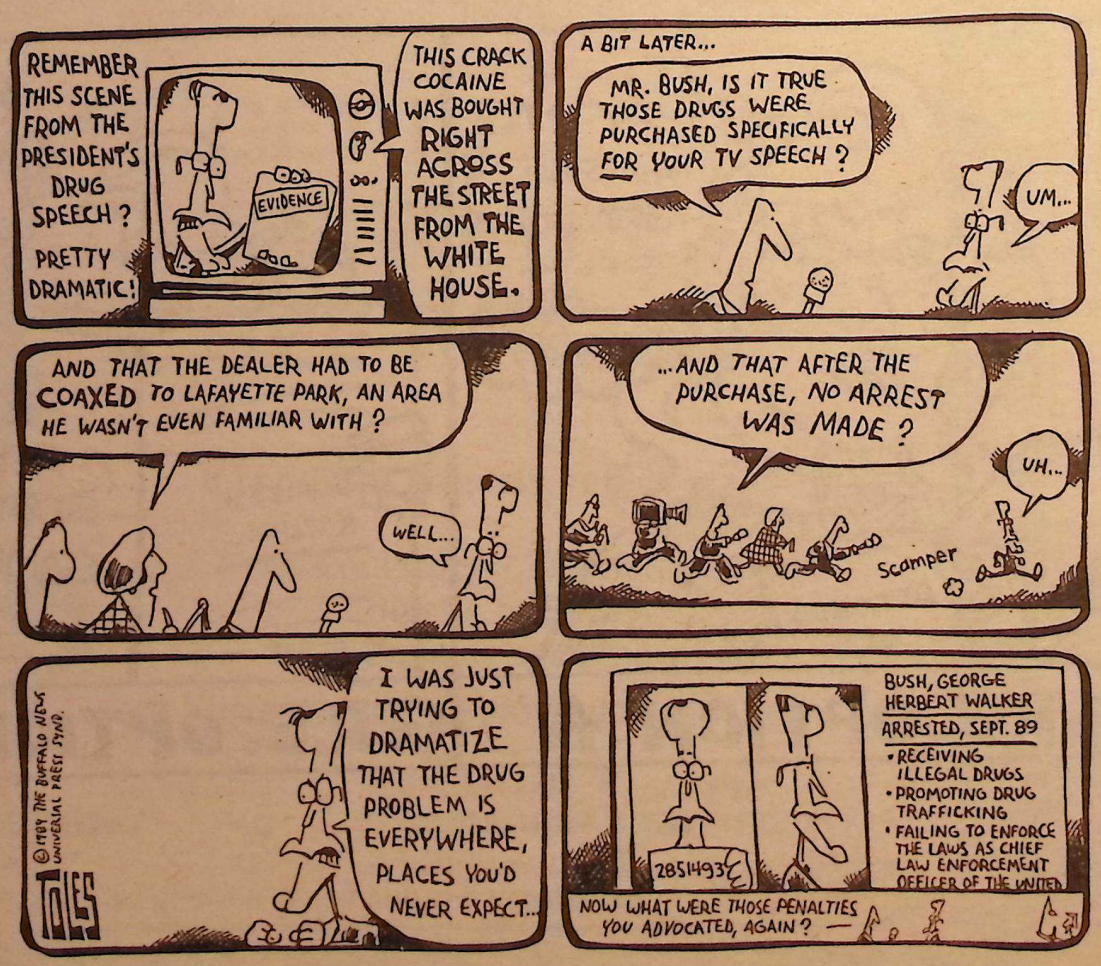
"God does not play dice," said Albert Einstein.

Until Hugo, South Carolina was that state wherein you were least likely to go bankrupt, statistically.

What bird watchers now know is the green-backed heron doesn't just stand there motionless at water's edge, waiting for fish. It oftentimes drops a single small feather on the water in front of it. To bait said fish.

Q. Is a woodpecker that drums on a drainpipe really so stupid it thinks it can dig a hole in it?
A. Doubtlessly not. That's the bird's territorial warning. This is my turf, man.

Report is the professional bicycle thieves who work the college campuses now get about $65 per bike.



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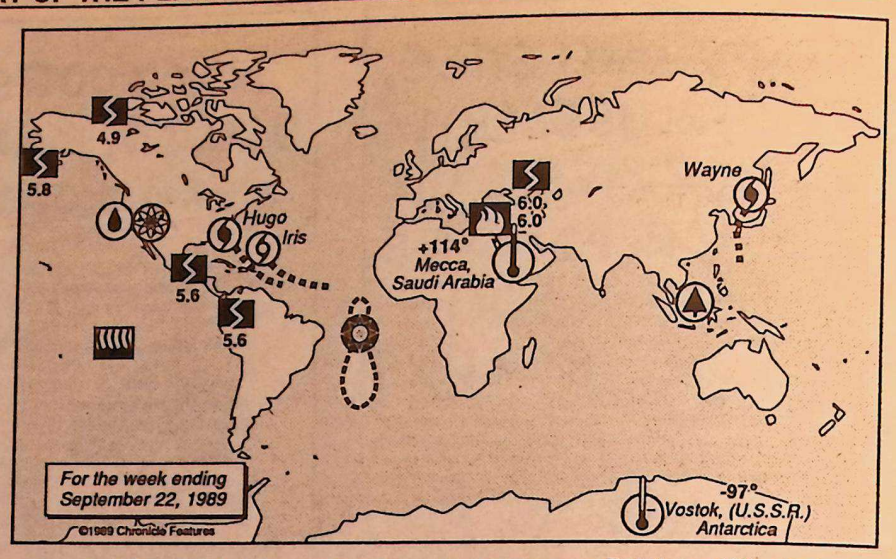
EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman



Tropical Storms

Hurricane Hugo devastated several Caribbean islands from Guadeloupe to Puerto Rico, then turned northwestward and lashed the southeastern U.S. with high winds and storm surge tides late in the week. In the Caribbean, at least 23 people were killed, and thousands more were forced to live outdoors after their homes were destroyed. President Bush, who declared Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands disaster areas, sent 1,000 military forces and civil law enforcement officials to St. Croix after a breakdown in law and order resulted in widespread looting.

Eight people were feared dead and nine others were injured after typhoon Wayne smashed into Japan's western coast. The typhoon also damaged more than 4,000 houses, swept away four bridges and triggered 160 landslides as it swept the southern tip of Kyushu island.

Early Rains

A freak, early-season rainstorm caused $50 million in damage to California's raisin crop, and threatened to ruin tons of premium grapes in the Napa and Sonoma wine-producing regions. Growers used helicopters, wind machines and tractors pulling fans to "blow dry" the grapes. A cold summer had left about 70 percent of the wine grapes still on the vine.

El Niño Cause

British scientists, ending a 3-year and 140,000-mile round-the-world voyage, announced that they have discovered significant changes in the salt content and temperature of the tropical oceans that trigger the recurring weather phenomenon known as El Niño. Measurements showed that colder, more salty water from the South Pacific rose into a band which straddled the equator during El Niño's early phases. Huge oceanic whirlpools resulted. This disturbed the normally stable regions of water, and caused new warm currents to flow to the eastern side of the Pacific. The new findings, combined with recent breakthroughs in predicting ocean-atmosphere interactions, may help provide early warnings of the disastrous weather patterns caused by El Niño.

Testing

The United States exploded a nuclear bomb 860 feet beneath the Nevada desert on September 14. The test, named Disko Elm, had a yield of less than 20 kilotons and was conducted to test the effects of a nuclear explosion on military hardware, according to an Energy Department official.

Equinox

The September equinox occurred at 1:20 a.m. Greenwich Mean Time on September 23 when the sun passed southward across the celestial equator. Day and night are roughly of equal length worldwide.

Terrorist Wildfires

Israel's worst fire in 25 years raged across nearly 2,000 acres of Mount Carmel, near Haifa. Two groups, Islamic Jihad in Amman and the previously unknown Direct Revenge in Israel, claimed that they had started the blazes. Dozens of rare animals perished, and numerous power lines and a television transmitter were damaged by the fires.

Earthquakes

The second and third quakes to strike the region within two weeks rocked a wide area from Soviet Azerbaijan to northwestern Iran. Other strong earth movements were felt in eastern Ecuador, the Aleutian Islands, southern Mexico and Canada's Northwest Territories.

Rainforest Blockade

Native tribespeople, deep in Malaysia's Sarawak tropical forest, barricaded logging roads in a desperate attempt to stop the destruction of their land by timber companies. Police arrested 63 Penans, the last of the nomadic hunter-gatherers left in Borneo, after they tried to halt shipments of tropical logs, most of which were bound for Japan. "Our trees are chopped, food supplies are destroyed, large-scale erosion is polluting the rivers and the fish are disappearing," Juwin Bihan, head of the newly-formed Sarawak Penans Association, told Japan's Kyodo news service. Last week's blockades were the second within two years, and occurred at 12 sites in the Baram and Limbag areas where the Penans and other indigenous tribes live.

Additional Sources: U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center U.S. National Hurricane Center at Miami, and the World Meteorological Organization.

G.R.E. OPTION A

G.R.E. OPTION B

Q: WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO PREPARE FOR YOUR G.R.E.'S?
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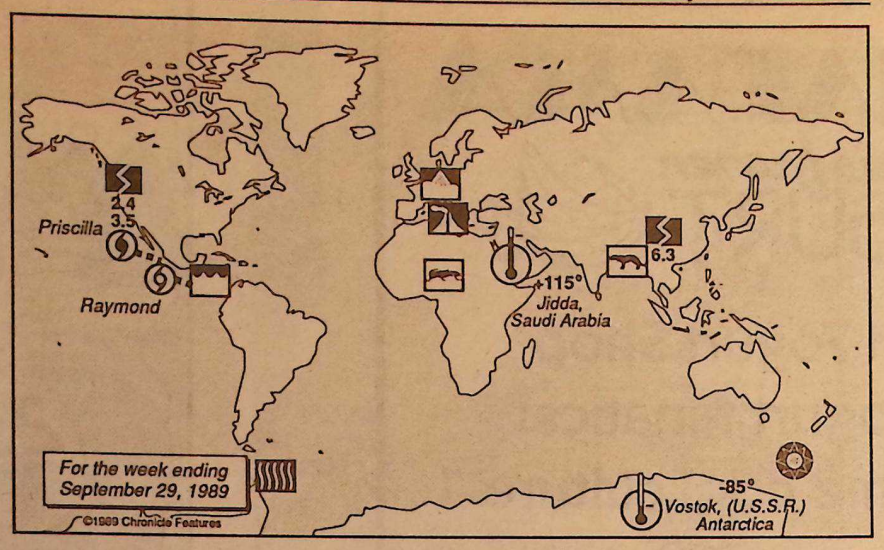
EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman



Antarctic Warming

Ice in the vicinity of the British Antarctic Survey Base at Rothera has been melting rapidly. Dr. Lewis Smith of the base said that the melt was caused by a substantial increase in air temperature during the summer months (January and February) since 1982. The mean temperature in summer at Rothera was 34 degrees Fahrenheit between 1982 and 1986, compared with 32.2 degrees between 1977 and 1981. Smith went on to say that although the Greenhouse Effect has hit the news only recently, "We have evidence it has been going on since 1950, and the Rothera data emphasizes this."

Ozone Hole Dangers

Measurements from New Zealand's Scott Base in Antarctica have discovered that the hole in the Earth's protective ozone layer is far bigger than previously predicted. When the hole breaks up, it could spread patches of ozone-depleted atmosphere as far north as New Zealand and Australia, posing an increased risk of skin cancer.

Volcano

Mount Etna lit up the nighttime Sicilian sky with fire and fountains of lava spraying from the southeast crater of Europe's most active volcano. The mountain also spewed ash that blew six miles west toward the small towns of Milo, Fornazzo and Giarre. Wednesday morning's activity was part of the eruption that began on Sept. 11. Officials called the eruption spectacular but said it poses no threat to people.

In a Fog

A foggy morning in Bavaria caused a series of massive pile-ups that left 78 people hurt, and caused $1 million in damage to trucks and cars on the no-speed-limit autobahn. West German police said 60 vehicles rammed into one another on one stretch of the motorway north of Munich. Then, almost immediately, another 30 vehicles traveling in the opposite direction crashed into each other. A truck carrying drums of tomato ketchup crashed and dumped its load on the roadway. Emergency services crews were called in to clear away tons of the red mush.

Pan American Storms

Tropical thunderstorms and torrential rains devastated a large area of Central America, resulting in at least six weather-related deaths in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa alone. In Guatemala, heavy rains caused massive landslides and crop damage, and cut off several mountain villages. Nearly 3,000 people were evacuated from their homes in western Costa Rica when flood waters reached six feet deep. Flood waters also ravaged southern Mexico, with flood-swollen rivers threatening several thousand homes and killing ten people.

Grasshoppers

Niger's Agriculture and Environment Minister Brigi Raffini called for international aid to combat grasshoppers that have invaded six sub-Saharan countries. In the coming days, he speculated, the grasshoppers could do serious crop damage, "compromising 1990 agricultural campaigns." The worst affected areas were said to be in Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad.

Earthquakes

A strong earthquake that struck southwest China's Sichuan province on Sept. 22 injured 54 people and destroyed 4,269 homes, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. Two light earthquakes in California jolted Los Angeles and Eureka.

Maneaters

Villagers around the Sundarban forest in southern Bangladesh have set up vigilante squads to save themselves from prowling tigers that sneak out of the jungle in search of people and animals to eat. The squads were formed after a Royal Bengal tiger broke into a farmer's cowshed on Sept. 12 and killed five head of cattle before being axed to death by angry villagers. Armed with guns, drums and trumpets, groups of young men now patrol villages near the huge mangrove forest, the home to 600 Royal Bengals, 200,000 deer and various other animals. Forest officials said that increased salinity in small rivers and canals criss-crossing Sundarban has depleted the number of wild boars and fish, and is forcing the tigers into villages to find food.

Additional Sources: U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.

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2. GO TO THE MALL
3. SEE A MOVIE

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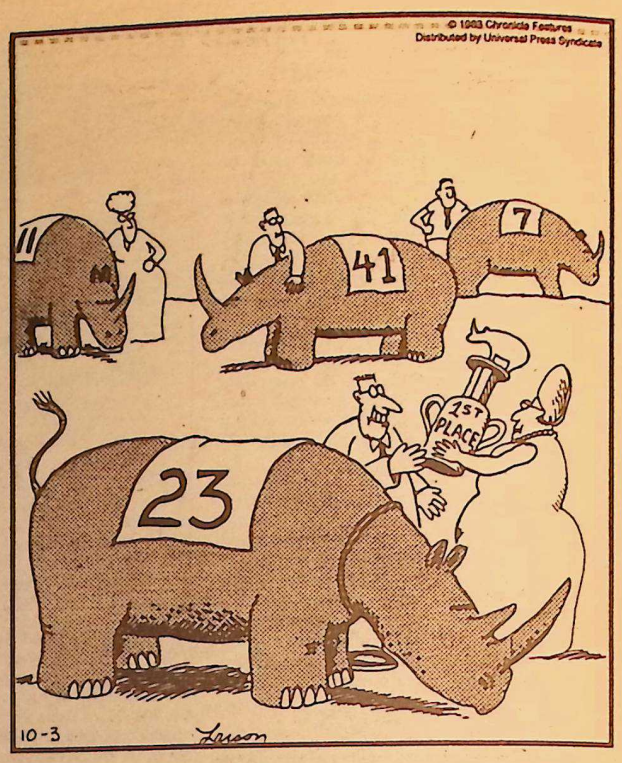

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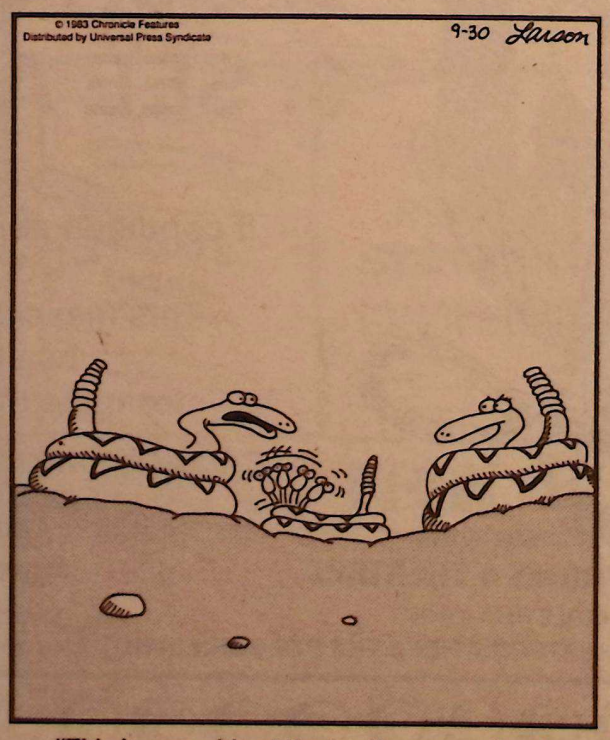
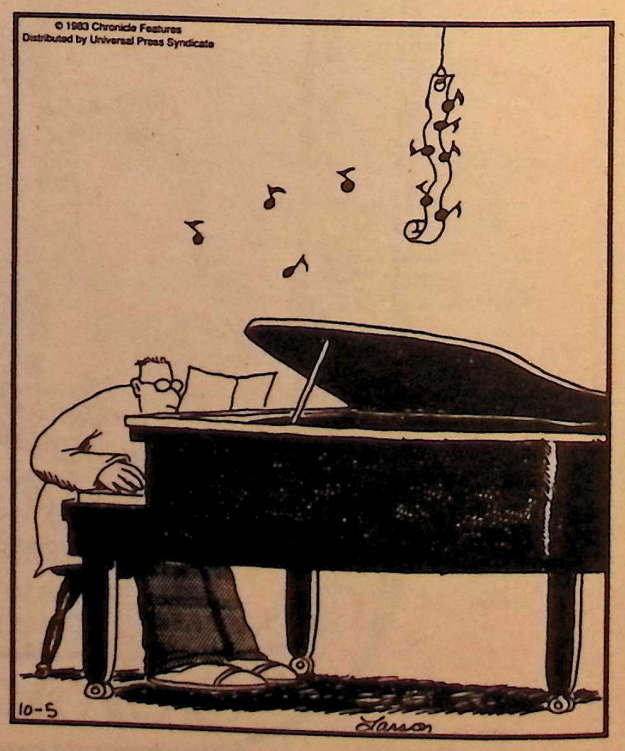
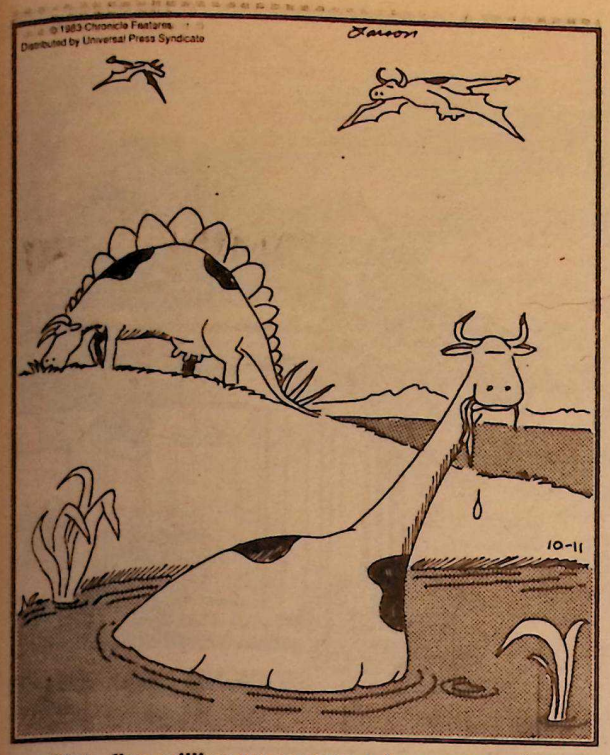
THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON

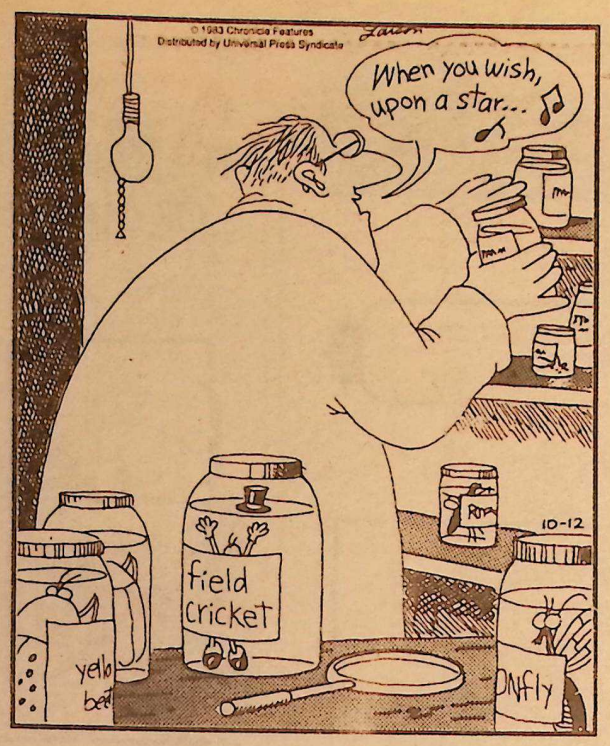


"This is your side of the family, you realize."

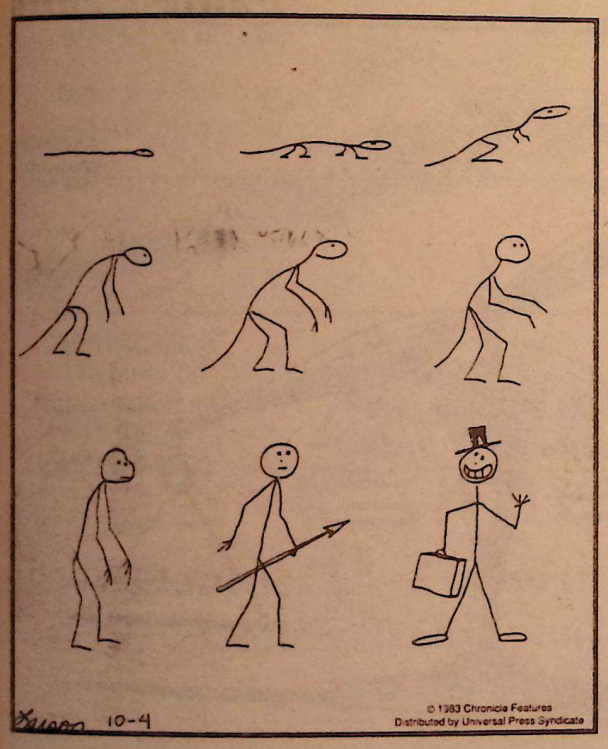




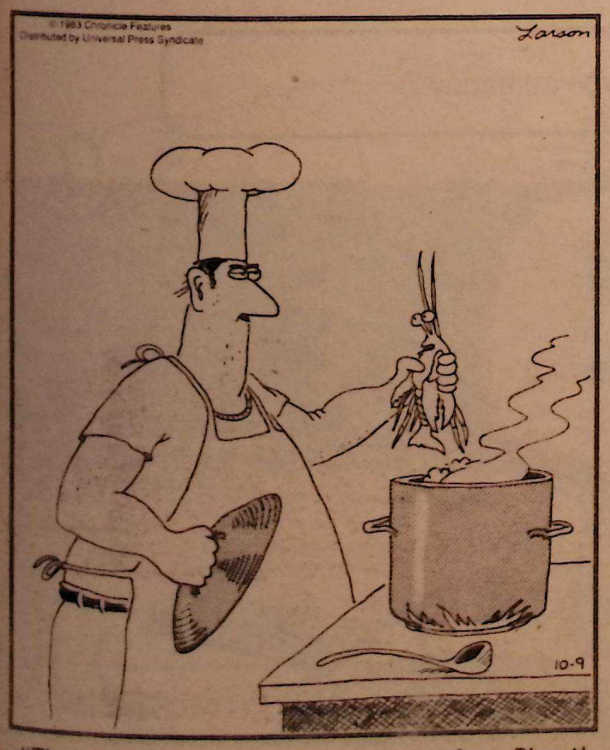
Sixty-five million years ago, when cows ruled the Earth.



"Stop the swing! I'm getting sick! Stop the swing! Oongowa! Oongowa!"

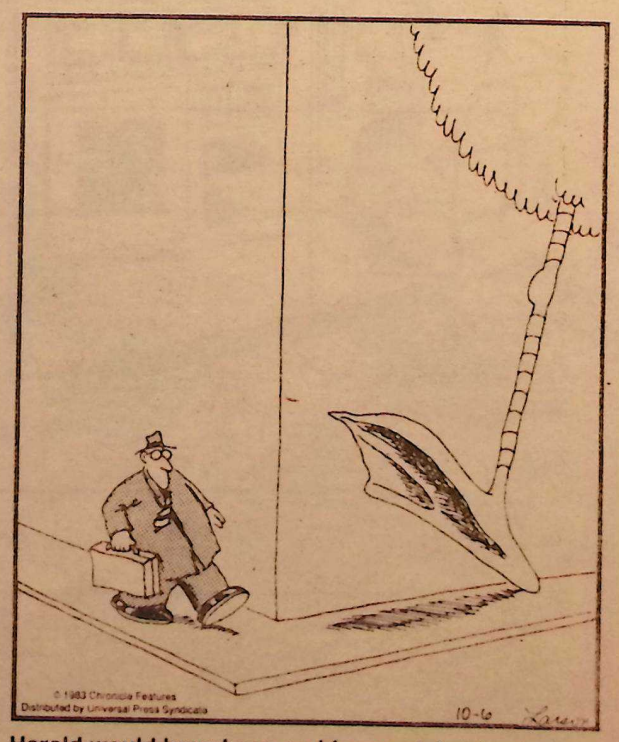


Evolution of the Stickman.



"Three wishes? Did I say three wishes? . . . Shoot! I'll grant you FOUR wishes."

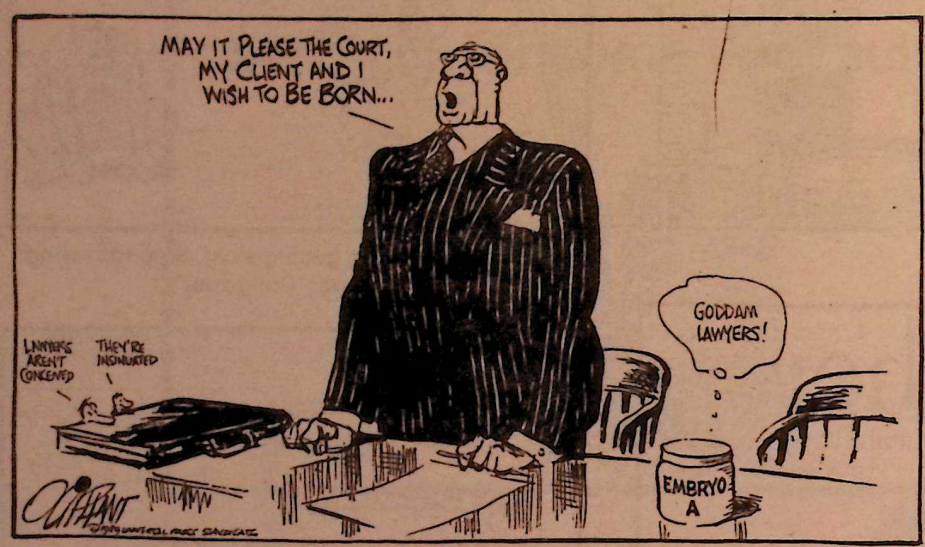
"OK, here we go! Remember, wiggle those noses, stuff those cheeks and act cute — and no smoking, Carl."



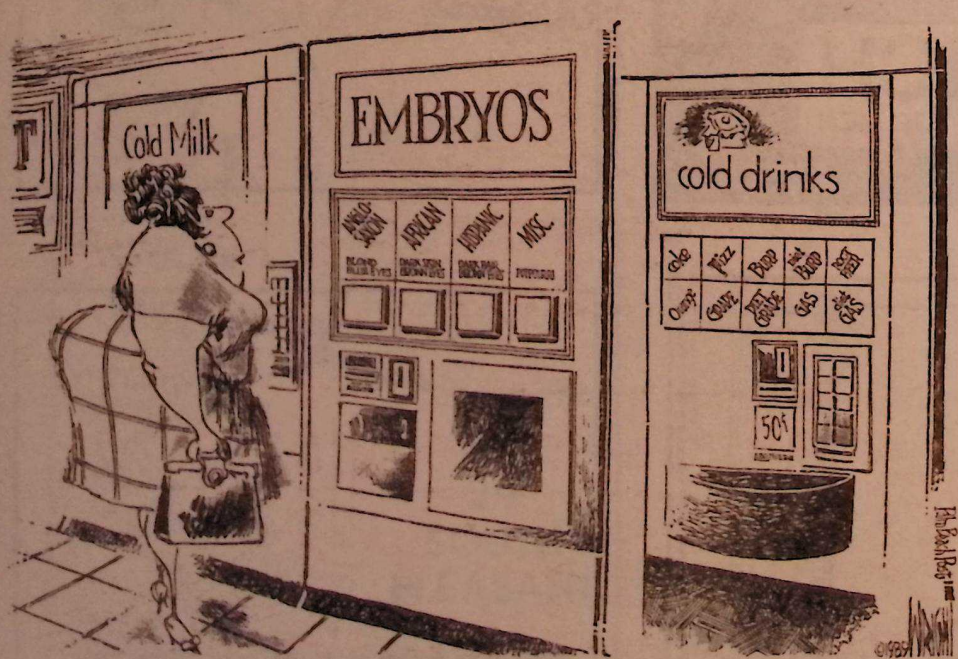
Harold would have been on his guard, but he thought the old gypsy woman was speaking figuratively.

EMBRYO

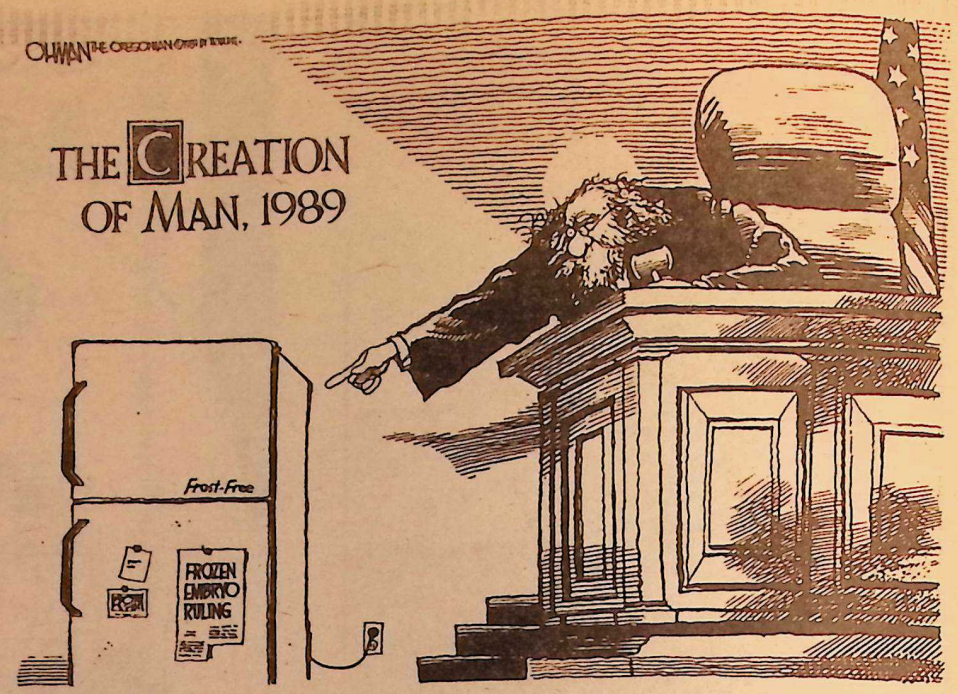
The courts go where no test tube has gone before.



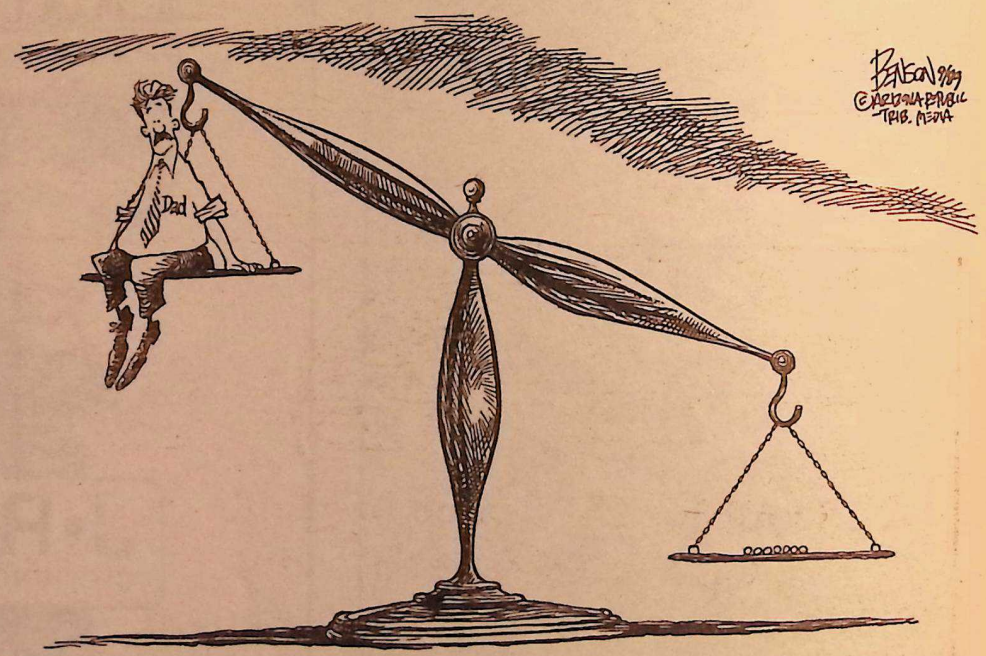
And fathers pay.



...Did you hear something?

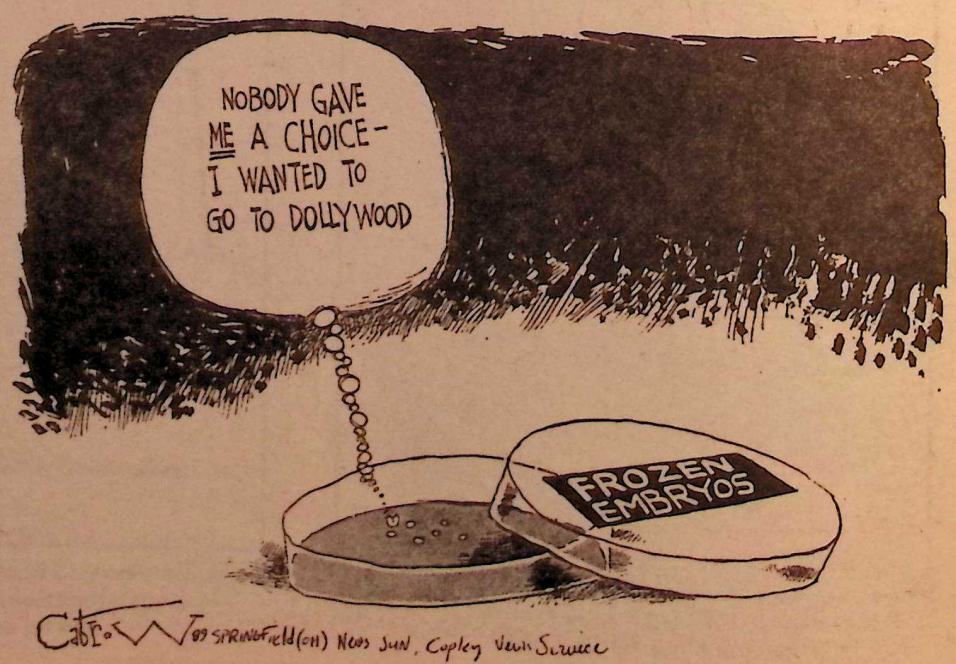


And lawyers follow.



The Case of the Frozen Embryos

Maybe someday...



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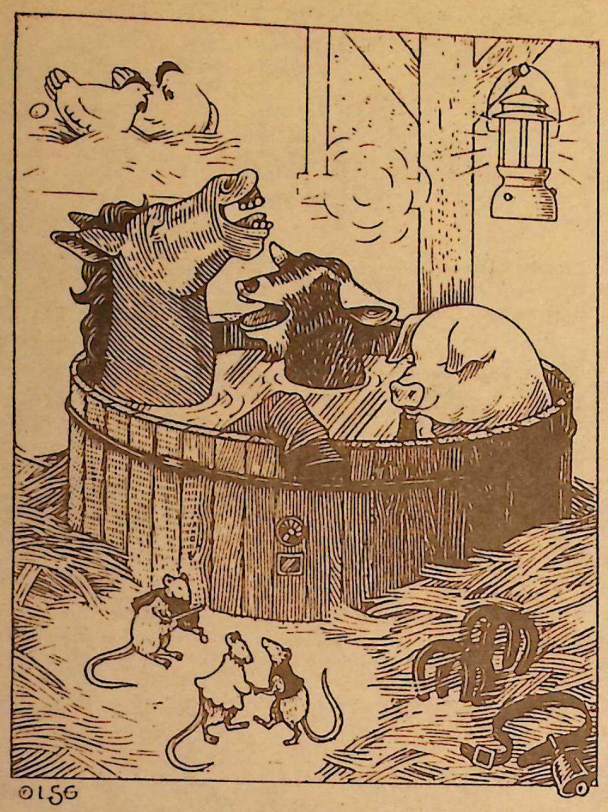
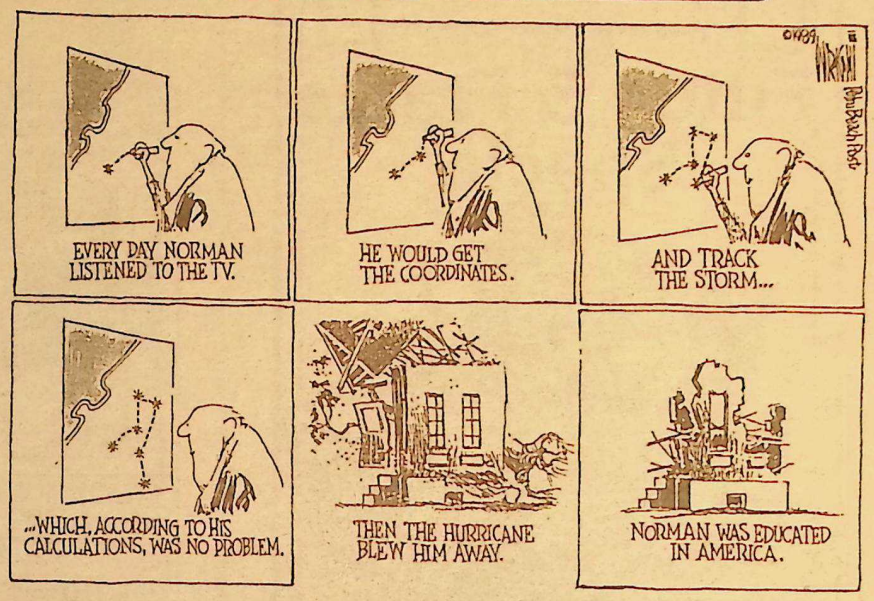
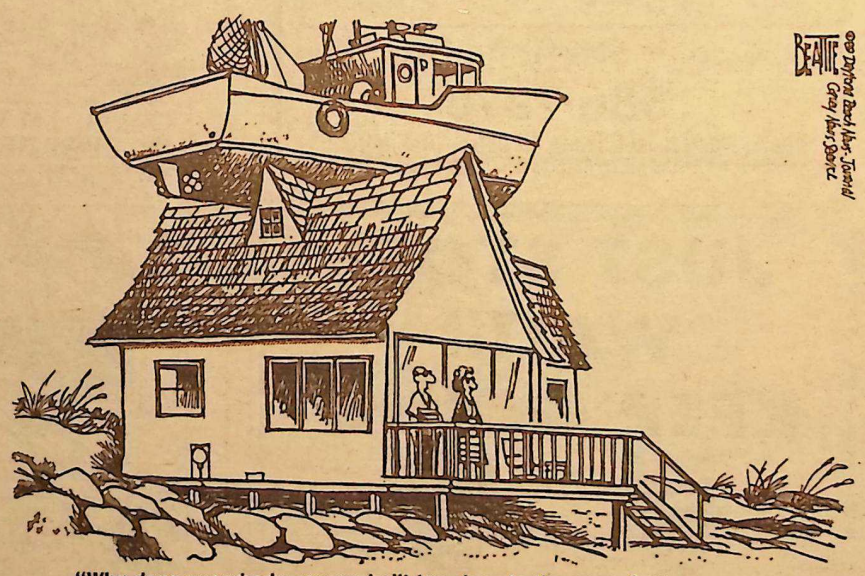


YOU GO NOT ME

Some people plotted.

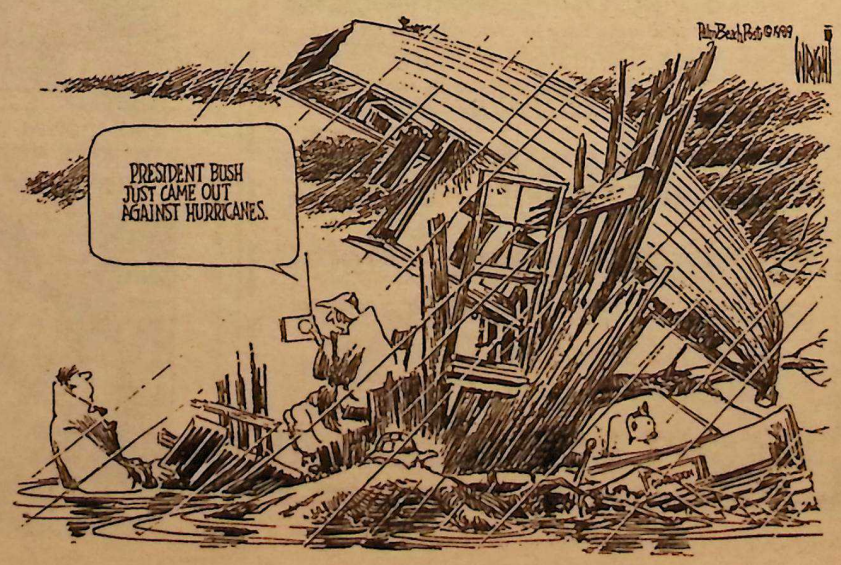


Some contemplated.



"Why does everybody say we built too close to the ocean? We survived the hurricane OK..."

But the President was decisive.



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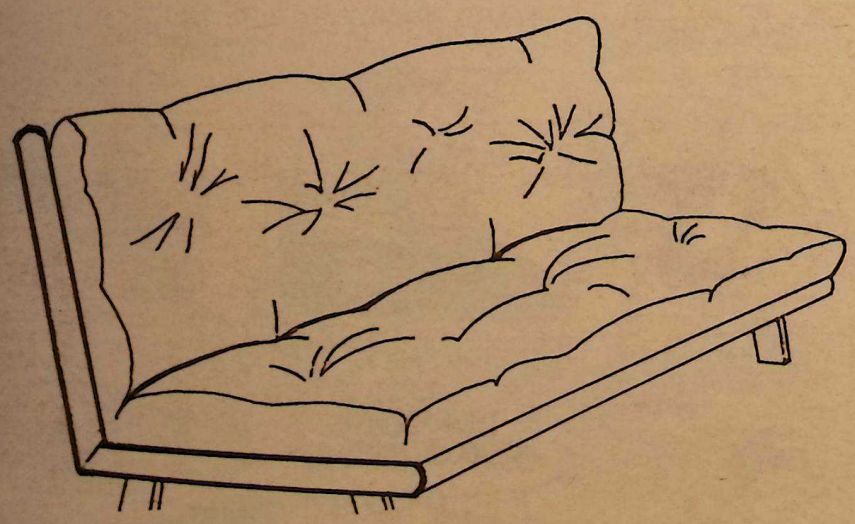

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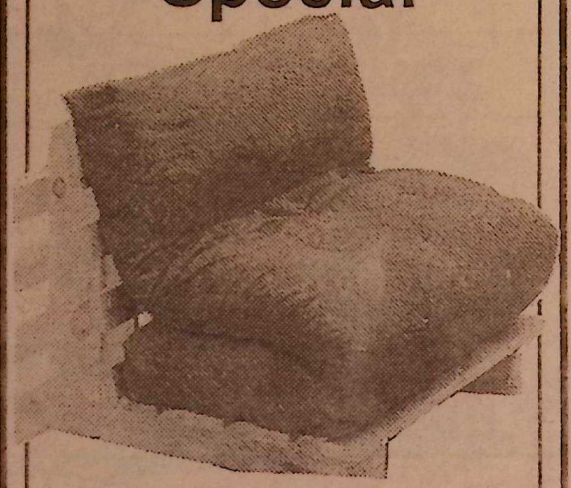

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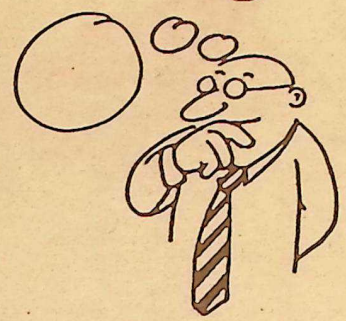

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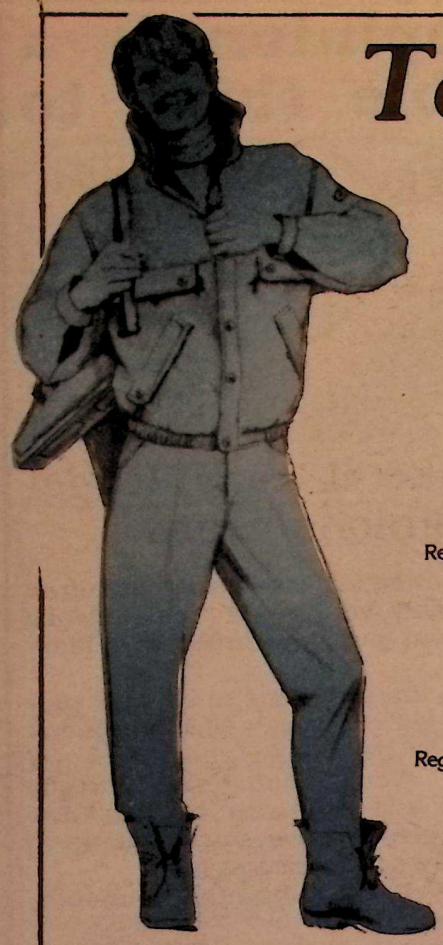
To Ski Or Not To Ski



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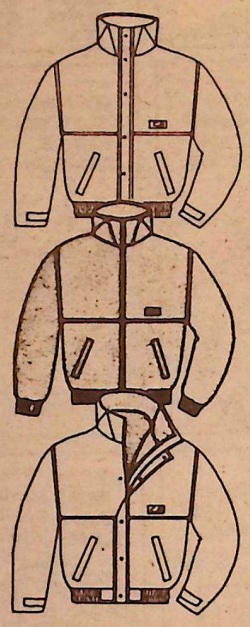

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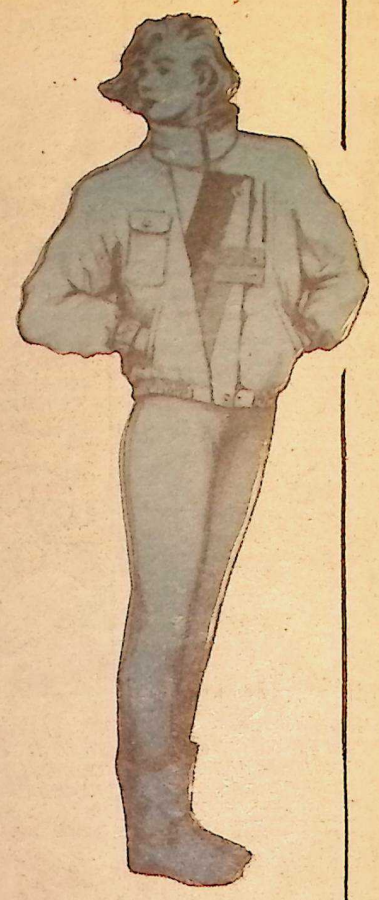

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